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A-League Round 5 Friday 4th Nov - Sunday 6th Nov 2011

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A-LEAGUE ROUND 5
Melb Victory v Brisbane Roar
Sat 5 Nov Etihad Stadium 7:45pm

This Week's Line Up

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Fourth round beckons for Socceroos



Jacob Kagi

Australia is just on the verge of securing its passage to the fourth round of Asia's World Cup qualifying process, with victory against Oman or Thailand enough to move through.

The Socceroos will advance with victory against Oman in Muscat in November 11, while a draw and a Thailand victory or a stalemate in its game against Saudi Arabia would also guarantee Holger Osieck's side a top-two finish in Group D.

Even if Australia can't advance on match-day four, victory against Thailand in Bangkok on November 15 will also see them advance.

But after the Socceroos' perfect start to the process, which has seen it beat Thailand 2-1, Saudi Arabia 3-1 and Oman 3-0, Osieck will be eying a first place finish in the group.

Victory in both games would guarantee that and Osieck's team will start as heavy favourites in both games after he named a strong 23-man squad for the two matches.

A-League stars Harry Kewell and Brett Emerton return to the squad, while veterans Mark Schwarzer, Lucas Neill, Brett Holman and Luke Wilkshire will also join the team.

But Osieck said Kewell and Emerton were not guaranteed a spot in the starting XI for either of the qualifiers.

"I ask a lot more of them other than they have produced so far," he said.

"I didn't say (I was) disappointed (by their form), I said I expect a lot more, I think there's a slight distinction there to be

Group D Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9
Thailand	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	2	1	1	3	-2	2
Oman	3	0	1	2	0	6	-6	1

Next Matches

2014 FIFA World Cup
Asian Qualifiers

Third Round Match Day 4

Oman v Qantas Socceroos

Friday 11 November, 2011

Sultan Qaboos Stadium,

Muscat, Oman

Kick Off: 6.00pm local

(1:00am AEDT)

2014 FIFA World Cup

Asian Qualifiers

Third Round Match Day 5

Thailand v Qantas Socceroos

Tuesday 15 November, 2011

Rajamangala Stadium,

Bangkok, Thailand

Kick Off: 6.00pm local

(10:00pm AEDT)



Recalled: Harry Kewell



Recalled: Brett Emerton



Call up: Chris Herd

The Squad

Player Name	Club, Country	Caps (goals)
Alex BROSQUE	Shimizu S-Pulse, JAPAN	9 (3)
Nathan COE	Sønderjysk Elitesport, DENMARK	3 (0)
Brett EMERTON	Sydney FC, AUSTRALIA	89 (18)
Adam FEDERICI	Reading FC, ENGLAND	6 (0)
Chris HERD	Aston Villa, ENGLAND	0-0
Brett HOLMAN	AZ Alkmaar, NETHERLANDS	51 (7)
Mile JEDINAK	Crystal Palace FC, ENGLAND	30 (3)
Josh KENNEDY	Nagoya Grampus, JAPAN	28 (15)
Harry KEWELL	Melbourne Victory, AUSTRALIA	54 (16)
Neil KILKENNY	Bristol City FC, ENGLAND	13 (0)
Robbie KRUSE	Fortuna Dusseldorf, GERMANY	12 (2)
Matt McKay	Glasgow Rangers, SCOTLAND	21 (0)
Lucas NEILL	Al-Jazira Club, UAE	77 (0)
Mitch NICHOLS	Brisbane Roar, AUSTRALIA	1 (0)
Sasa OGNENOVSKI	Seongnam, KOREA REP	12 (1)
Adam SAROTA	FC Utrecht, NETHERLANDS	2 (0)
Mark SCHWARZER	Fulham FC, ENGLAND	92 (0)
Matthew SPIRANOVIC	Urawa Red Diamonds, JAPAN	10 (0)
James TROISI	Kayserispor Kulubu, TURKEY	8 (1)
Carl VALERI	U.S. Sassuolo Calcio, ITALY	43 (1)
Luke WILKSHIRE	FK Dinamo Moscow, RUSSIA	64 (6)
Rhys WILLIAMS	Middlesbrough FC, ENGLAND	8 (0)
Michael ZULLO	FC Utrecht, NETHERLANDS	8 (0)

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made.

"But knowing their value and what they bring to the team I invited them."

Western Australian-born Aston Villa player Chris Herd earned his first Socceroos call-up, while Brisbane Roar's Mitch Nichols did enough in the recent A-League

stage games came when it held Saudi Arabia to a 0-0 draw on the first match-day, but from there it suffered an embarrassing 3-0 loss to Thailand a few days later and fell by the same margin to the Socceroos in October.

Wigan's Ali Al-Habsi is the most notable Omani player as the goalkeeper is the

there were no other injury concerns.

Australia will be facing a desperate Oman side, with anything less than a victory for Paul Le Guen's team to all but end their hopes of advancing.

Oman's sole point from its three group stage games came when it held Saudi Arabia to a 0-0 draw on the first match-day, but from there it suffered an embarrassing 3-0 loss to Thailand a few days later and fell by the same margin to the Socceroos in October.

Wigan's Ali Al-Habsi is the most notable Omani player as the goalkeeper is the

only European-based player in a team which is otherwise only made up of players from Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Qatari-based striker Imad Al-Hosni, who has 18 goals from his 53 international caps, and Al Nassr forward Hassan Rabia provide Oman's attacking firepower, but the team is yet to score a goal in the third round of qualification.

Oman has caused Australia problems before, such as the 1-1 draw between the two sides at the 2007 Asian Cup and the pair of one goal Socceroos victories

in qualification for the 2011 tournament, which were only secured after late winners.

Thailand has also proved a difficult opponent, as the Socceroos needed two second half goals to come from behind and win 2-1 against the world's 114th ranked side in the first match of Australia's campaign.

After thrashing Oman 3-0 on matchday two, Thailand earned a 0-0 home draw against Saudi Arabia to sit in second spot heading into the second half of the group stage.

Nichols rewarded with Socceroo call up

By Daniel Lato

Brisbane Roar midfielder Mitch Nichols has been rewarded for his impressive club performances by being named in Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck's 23-player squad for the upcoming 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers against Oman and Thailand.

Nichols' form has been outstanding in Brisbane's opening four fixtures, including the lone goal in his side's 1-0 win over Central Coast Mariners and three assists in the Roar's 7-1 demolition of Adelaide United last time out.

The first to admit he didn't make the most of his chance with the Australian national team when making his debut as a 19-year-old in an AFC Asian Cup qualifying game against Kuwait in 2009, Nichols plans to grab this opportunity with both hands.

"I didn't expect it, but I'm really excited," he said.

"I've been working towards this and

now I've got to make the most of it.

"There's no guarantee of game time or anything but I'm going to go over there and do my best and hopefully impress.

"This has been a dream of mine since I was four or five, ever since I started playing.

"It didn't hit me what I achieved then (back in 2009) and this second time round, I'm going to make the most of it and I don't want to let the chance go by."

The former Palm Beach junior received a call from Qantas Socceroos Team Manager Gary Moretti after training on Monday afternoon but had to keep his news quiet from his teammates until this morning.

"It was pretty hard to do – I only told my mum and a few close mates who I knew wouldn't tell anyone," Nichols said.

"I wanted to come into the changing room and tell everyone but I had to keep my mouth shut."

Nichols named his new-found consis-

tency in the orange jersey as a key factor in his improvement over the past 18 months which in turn as led to his Australian team selection.

"I was probably slacking off a bit after I did originally play for the Socceroos when I was 19," he said.

"I've come in with a fresh attitude, starting from last pre-season and I've just continued that.

"Ange has been in my ear every week about improving and keeping that consistency.

"He told me, you know you've got the talent and now it's about your hard work on and off the field, looking after yourself when you're away from here and doing all the right things."

The 22-year-old said he drew inspiration from close mate, former teammate and fellow Qantas Socceroos squad member Matt McKay, who last season displayed through hard work and dedication that Hyundai A-League players can make the cut for Osieck's playing group.

"Matty was an inspiration, he was getting picked in the Socceroos last year while playing in the A-League," he said.

"We all look around and think, well if he can do it, why can't we.

"I've missed him, he was one of my close mates in the team and I actually spoke to him yesterday about it.

"He told me not to be nervous and just go in and play the way I've been playing for club and don't be overawed."

Nichols is in good company within the Hyundai A-League contingent, named alongside veterans Brett Emerton and Harry Kewell in Osieck's squad for the 11 November game in Muscat and the 15 November match in Bangkok.

Coupled with his impending Qantas Olyroos commitments, Nichols will miss three Brisbane Roar fixtures in total – Wellington Phoenix at Suncorp Stadium on 13 November, Newcastle Jets away on 19 November and Perth Glory at Suncorp Stadium on 26 November.

The Qantas Socceroos will assemble

in Dubai early next week for a short training camp before arriving in Muscat on Thursday 10 November to face Oman the next day at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium.

The Qantas Socceroos will then travel to Bangkok the following day (Saturday 12 November) to prepare for their match against Thailand at the Rajamangala Stadium on Tuesday (15 November).

At this stage Football Federation Australia (FFA) has not been informed by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) of any change to the venue or kick-off time and date for the match against Thailand due to the flood waters that are currently affecting Bangkok. FFA is in daily contact with the AFC regarding the situation and will advise all stakeholders immediately should the match details change.

The Qantas Socceroos are currently at the top of Group D with maximum points from their opening three matches followed by Thailand in second place then Saudi Arabia and Oman.



Roar's Mitch Nichols

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar FC	4	4	0	0	13	1	12	12
2 Perth Glory FC	4	3	0	1	5	3	2	9
3 Newcastle Jets FC	4	2	0	2	5	7	-2	6
4 Melbourne Victory FC	4	1	2	1	2	2	0	5
5 Gold Coast United FC	4	1	2	1	5	6	-1	5
6 Sydney FC	4	1	2	1	3	4	-1	5
7 Wellington Phoenix FC	4	1	1	2	4	4	0	4
8 Central Coast Mariners	4	1	1	2	5	4	-1	4
9 Adelaide United FC	4	1	0	3	3	10	-7	3
10 Melbourne Heart FC	4	0	2	2	4	6	-2	2

THIS WEEK	Week 5	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 4 Nov 2011	Wellington Phoenix v Central Coast Mariners	Westpac Stadium	7:30pm	5:30pm
	Fri 4 Nov 2011	Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
	Sat 5 Nov 2011	Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	Ausgrid Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 5 Nov 2011	Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar	Etihad Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sun 6 Nov 2011	Sydney FC v Gold Coast United	Sydney Football Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK	Week 6	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 11 Nov 2011	Adelaide United v Gold Coast United	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm	8:00pm
	Sat 12 Nov 2011	Melbourne Heart v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 12 Nov 2011	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory	Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat 12 Nov 2011	Perth Glory v Sydney FC	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
	Sun 13 Nov 2011	Brisbane Roar v Wellington Phoenix	Suncorp Stadium	4:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 04 RESULTS

Brisbane Roar 7 (Henrique 21'/36', Besart Berisha 23'/26'/29'/69', Issey Nakajima-Farran 80') Friday 28 October 2011 Venue: Suncorp Stadium Referee: Strebrel Delovski	Adelaide United 1 (Dario Vidosic 5') Friday 28 October 2011 Venue: Suncorp Stadium Referee: Strebrel Delovski	Saturday 29 October 2011 Venue: AAMI Park Referee: Chris Beath
Central Coast Mariners 2 (Matt Simon 27', Bernie Ibini 45 + 1')	Perth Glory 1 (Travis Dodd 6') Saturday 29 October 2011 Venue: Bluetongue Stadium Referee: Ryan Shephard	Wellington Phoenix 1 (Dani Sanchez 71') Melbourne Victory 2 (Archie Thompson 42', Carlos Hernandez 68' (pen)) Sunday 30 October 2011 Venue: Westpac Stadium Referee: Peter Green
Melbourne Heart 1 (Maycon 88')	Sydney FC 1 (Nick Carle 90'+4)	Gold Coast United 3 (Maceo Rigters 11', Kristian Rees 58', James Brown 83') Newcastle Jets 1 (Jobe Wheelhouse 68') Sunday 30 October 2011 Venue: Skilled Park

TOP GOAL SCORERS

6 - Besart Berisha (Roar)
3 - Shane Smeltz (Glory), James Brown (Gold Coast)
2 - Ryan Griffiths (Jets), Mate Dugandzic (Heart), Dario Vidosic (AUFC)



Gold Coast's James Brown scored against the Jets and once again displayed great touch.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 4

Compiled by Steven Talevski



GK: Ante Covic – Another impressive performance by the Melbourne Victory goalkeeper. Covic kept his side in the game with a string of saves in the first half and was only beaten by a fantastic Dani Sanchez strike.

RB: Pedj Bojic – Provided an assist to the Mariner's first goal as he was able to intercept a Josh Mitchell pass to play the ball onto Matt Simon who calmly put the ball in the back of the net. Bojic ended the game with some frantic defending as the Glory weren't able to equalise.

CB: Matt Smith – Captained his side to an extraordinary victory after they went down from a Dario Vidosic strike. Smith looked comfortable anchoring the defence as the Roar continue to impress onlookers.

CB: Pascal Bosschaart – The Dutchman stood strong in the centre of the Sydney defence and showed his experience of over 350 Eredivisie games.

LB: Shane Stefanutto – The Roar left back continues to play well and provided a great pass to assist Besart Berisha for his first goal.

CDM: Paul Beekmans – One of three Dutchmen

in the team of the round, Beekmans had a man of the match performance anchoring the Gold Coast midfield.

RCM: Mitch Nichols – The youngster continues to grow with another great attacking performance against Adelaide. His form was rewarded by a Socceroos call up from Holger Osieck.

LCM: James Brown – The youngster netted his third goal of the season as he breaks out as one of Gold Coast's most influential players this season.

RW: Archie Thompson – Scored a fantastic goal to end Melbourne Victory's goal drought this season. His hard work paid off again, as he won a penalty after being dragged down in the penalty area by Ben Sigmund.

LW: Maceo Rigters – Opened the scoring for the Gold Coast and was a consistent danger in attack. Rigters continues to settle down at his new club and may well be one of this season's best imports.

ST: Besart Berisha – The Albanian international scored four goals for the first time in his career in a dominating 7-1 victory over Adelaide.

Star Man Besart Berisha Brisbane Roar



Besart Berisha scored four goals in Brisbane's smashing of Adelaide to take his tally up to six goals for the season. His runs were well rewarded by passes from the likes of Mitch Nichols and Shane Stefanutto as he continues to get use to the A-League.

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Brisbane Roar

7

Adelaide United

1

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 7 (Henrique 21', 36', Besart Berisha 23', 26', 29', 69', Issey Nakajima-Farran 80')
Adelaide United 1 (Dario Vidosic 5')
Friday, 28 October 2011
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Strebre Delovski
Crowd: 11,762

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theoklitos (Gk), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 4. Matt Jurman (16. Mohamed Adnan 45'), 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha(9. Kofi Danning 69'), 8. Massimo Muroccca, 10. Henrique (11. Issey Nakajima-Farran 57'), 17. Mitch Nichols, 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 30. Matthew Acton (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Kofi Danning 72'
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 1. Eugene Galekovic (Gk), 4. Jon McKain (C), 5. Daniel Mullen, 6. Cassio, 7. Zenon Caravella, 8. Evgeniy Levchenko (21. Francisco Usucar 45'), 9. Sergio Van Dijk, 10. Dario Vidosic, 16. Spase Dilevski, 22. Milan Susak (2. Osama Malik 68'), 23. Andy Storey (17. Iain Ramsay 42')

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Mark Birighitti (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Jon McKain 20', Cassio 36', Milan Susak 47'
Red Cards: Nil

Roar romp to seventh heaven

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane notched up another win in its 32 game unbeaten run on Friday night, defeating Adelaide United 7-1 in a match that produced perhaps the most outstanding display of attacking football in A-League history.

Dario Vidosic gave the visitors an early lead before Brisbane showed just why they are the A-League champions, four goals in an eight-minute span gave the home team a 4-1 lead by the 28th minute.

Albanian striker Besart Berisha led the charge with a predatory performance, recording only the second hat trick in Brisbane's history and the fastest ever in the A-League on his way to a four-goal haul.

Adelaide began the match employing the same high pressing game that has been the standard anti-Brisbane tactic so far this season. Brisbane's opponents to date had failed to capitalize on their early chances created by the high press but Adelaide didn't waste any time in lighting up the scoreboard.

Former Roar player Dario Vidosic was given the benefit of the doubt by the officials in the 4th minute when he latched onto a ball played through Brisbane's defensive line. The midfielder cut back inside Matthew Jurman on the edge of the area and fired a well placed shot into the bottom right hand corner of Michael Theoklitos' net that left the home crowd in a stunned silence.

Vidosic has caught the eye already during the start to this season and he was again causing the Brisbane defence problems in the 16th minute, beating Matt Smith for pace but his cross for Sergio Van Dijk was cut out by Jurman.

Van Dijk was the next to spring Brisbane's offside trap, sending a tame shot into the hands of Theoklitos when he should have



Beautiful one day, perfect the next: Bersat Berisha makes it a night to remember and notches four goals in an outstanding team display. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

done much more.

The home crowd had been noticeably quiet when Adelaide were on top but they erupted into life in the 21st minute when Mitch Nichols was clumsily brought down by Adelaide captain Jon McKain in Adelaide's penalty area. Henrique stepped up to the spot and made no mistakes to draw the home team level.

Only minutes later Brisbane were ahead after a superb team goal, Thomas Broich and Nichols combined on the edge of the area before the German played a pass out to a sprinting Shane Stefanutto on the wing who crossed for Besart Berisha to

tap in from a metre out.

Brisbane were on a roll and Berisha had his name on the scoresheet again in the 27th minute after perfectly weighted through ball from Nichols played him through, the striker holding off Daniel Mullen before finishing to Galekovic's left. Berisha hadn't finished yet, completing a first-half hatrick in only six minutes, tapping home from a Broich cross after the German beat Galekovic to the ball at the near post.

Brisbane then added a fifth before half time, Henrique converting another penalty after being brought down by Cassio

in the box.

Ange Postecoglou made the decision to replace Matt Jurman after halftime with Mohamed Adnan, the Bahraini is yet to make a start for his new club in 2011 and Postecoglou will no doubt be hoping to have the defender acclimatized to the A-League before Jurman's likely departure for Olyroos duty later this season.

While not exploiting the Adelaide defence in quite the same way as the opening half, the Roar continued to dominate possession and Berisha unbelievably had his fourth goal of the night after 69 minutes.

Substitute Nakajima-Farran this time

Match Stats		
1	Saves	3
9	Attempts on target	3
3	Attempts off target	4
64%	Possession	36%
5	Corners	5
3	Offsides	3
14	Fouls committed	12

provided the assist as Berisha squeezed through the challenges of defensive partnership McKain and Daniel Mullen and stabbed a shot off the outside of his foot that squeezed through the outstretched hands of Galekovic.

His fourth goal of the match signaled the end to his night as Postecoglou replaced him with Kofi Danning, the Albanian leaving pitch to rapturous applause from the home crowd.

The party continued in the 81st minute, Danning feeding from Nichols the right wing before the midfielder played a pass across the face of goal that Nakajima-Farran had no trouble in tapping in for Brisbane's seventh.

Adelaide manager Rini Coolen was understandably dismayed at the result, "We didn't solve the problem on the left hand side with Broich, which we talked about, they gave us problems and in 15 minutes they scored five goals, so that's not only finding a solution in a tactical way but also very poor defending."

"I don't directly have the solutions now but we have to do something, that's for sure."

"We selected a lot of good football players which can bring us to another level but we're far away from the level from last season so we have to change some things, and that's my job so we'll work on it from tomorrow, but you have to keep supporting your players and your squad."



Enrique makes no mistake from the spot to cancel out Dario Vidosic's early strike. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



The floodgates soon open for the Roar and Bersat Berisha leads a flurry of goals with a well taken hat-trick inside six minutes. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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CC Mariners



2

Perth Glory



1

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 2
(Simon 27', Ibini 45 + 1')
Perth Glory 1
(Dodd 6')
Referee: Ryan Shephard
Crowd: 6,883 At Bluetongue Stadium,
Gosford

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew
Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3.
Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick
Zwaanswijk, 8. Rostyn Griffiths, 9.
Bernie Ibini (22. Mustafa Amini 69'), 11.
Oliver Bozanic, 14. Michael McGlinchey,
18. Alex Wilkinson (C), 19. Matt Simon
(12. Troy Hearfield 89')

Subs Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield, 10.
Adriano Pellegrino
Yellow Cards: Simon 7', McBreen 30',
Zwaanswijk 50', McGlinchey 90 + 1'
Red Cards: None

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic (Gk), 3.
Seb Van Den Brink, 4. Billy Mehmet, 6.
Chris Coyne, (2. Josh Mitchell 21') 7.
Jacob Burns (C), 8. Adam Hughes, 9.
Shane Smeltz, 10. Liam Miller, 12. Scott
Neville, 13. Travis Dodd (27. Andrezinho
65'), 17. Todd Howarth (14. Steve
Mcgarry 90 + 1')

Subs Not Used: 30. Lewis Italiano (Gk),
Yellow Cards: Van Den Brink 34', Burns
41', Howarth 58'
Red Cards: None

Mariners open season account

By Adrian Deans

The Central Coast came from behind to jag their first win of the season against Perth Glory in a scrappy affair at Bluetongue Stadium.

The Mariners have struggled to adjust to life without Patricio Perez and Mustafa Amini. The service in the final third which Matt Simon, Daniel McBreen and Adam Kwasnik feasted upon last season has been non-existent. The channel runs are happen- ing but the balls aren't getting through. How- ever, in the second half against Newcastle last week, there were strong signs that the Mariners were getting their rhythm back.

In contrast, Perth were flying high – equal top of the league with the outstanding Bris- bane Roar – but apart from their fantastic performance at home in Round 1, they hadn't looked entirely convincing. Andrezh- no tore Adelaide apart in Round 1, looking like a new A-League superstar, but couldn't replicate the performance in Rounds 2 and 3 and found himself on the bench for this game. It was worth noting also that the Glo- ry had never beaten the Mariners at home.

The Mariners made a few changes for the game. Alex Wilkinson was back from his broken arm, replacing Brad Porter. McBreen dropped back into the number 10 spot, replacing Pellegrino and young Bernie Ibini got his first start up front. Best of all for the Mariners, Amini was back from injury and on the bench.

It was a strong-looking side, but they didn't start strongly and I found myself wondering about Graham Arnold's habit of watering the pitch just before the game. The players have been warming up and adjusting to the speed of the pitch, then they come back out and find themselves struggling to control the ball and keep their feet on the slicker surface. In fact, that seemed to contribute to Perth's early goal. The cross came in from Scott Neville and Travis Dodd's glancing header found the net after Mat Ryan ap- peared to slip and couldn't readjust in time.

For the next little while, Perth continued to dominate with Liam Millar and Billy Mehmet looking masterful at the top of the midfield. The Mariners seemed to get narrower and narrower in an effort to squeeze the service to Millar and Mehmet and consequently lost the width which served them so well in



Matt Simon controls and scores to pull the Mariners back on level terms.

Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

Season 6.

The signs were not good for the Mariners as Smeltz forced Ryan into a save in the 12th minute, and then two minutes later Matt Simon was lucky to stay on the pitch after a deliberate handball. He'd already received a yellow after a frustrated charge on Neville and could easily have received a

second yellow for the handball. How differ- ently the day might have finished.

Moments later Billy Mehmet hit the post from 20 metres after a great touch from Smeltz, but then Chris Coyne was forced off with a groin injury and the Mariners seemed to get their breath and take stock. Finally, the Mariners started to play to a

plan, looking to get in behind, and Ibini, Bozanic, Bojic and Rose started to have an impact as the game opened up.

Perth were still the better-looking team so it was a little hard on the Glory when the Mariners suddenly equalised in the 27th minute. A superb ball from Pedj Bojic found Simon in front of goal, who controlled the

Match Stats		
1	Saves	4
7	Attempts on target	2
6	Attempts off target	5
46%	Possession	54%
3	Corners	2
2	Offsides	1
16	Fouls committed	11

ball neatly and slotted past his former team mate – Danny Vukovic.

Then, to make things really unfair, the Mar- iners took an undeserved lead in first half injury time. Rostyn Griffiths ran fifty metres at the Perth defence then teed up Matt Simon whose shot was brilliantly saved by Vukovic but fell straight into the path of Ibini who couldn't miss from three metres.

The second half was fairly even but very scrappy. The Mariners had struggled to put four passes together in the first half but managed to hold possession for longer periods in the second (possibly as the grass dried). They also put a lot more ef- fective pressure on the Perth midfield and prevented the regular making of chances which occurred in the first half.

Ibini just missed with a first time effort from 20 metres in the 72nd minute and was then replaced by crowd favourite Amini. Noted for his touch and vision, Amini looked a bit rusty but will be better for the run.

Perth had one last good chance to level when Hughes found the ball at his feet right in front but screwed his shot wide when closed by Mat Ryan.

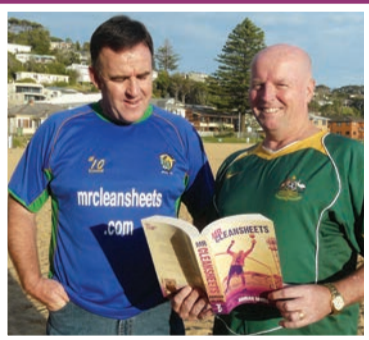
The Mariners will take the win but it wasn't convincing. The main positives were the return of Amini who will make a huge dif- ference when fit, and the performance of Bernie Ibini who was replaced just as he was really starting to torment the Perth defence.

Adrian Deans is the author of *Mr Cleansheets* – published by *Vulgar Press*, distributed by *Dennis Jones and As- sociates* and available in all good book stores. e-book also available at www.mrcleansheets.com

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Travis Dodd gets his name up in lights after his glancing header finds the back of the net for the Glory. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

Melbourne Heart

HEART

1

Sydney FC

1

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 1 (Maycon 88)
Sydney FC 1 (Nick Carle 90+4)
Saturday 29 October 2011
Venue: AAMI Park
Attendance: 5,666
Referee: Chris Beath

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton, 2. Michael Marrone, 4. Simon Colosimo, 6. Matt Thompson, 10. Wayne Shroj (9. Maycon 77'), 11. Alex Terra (3. Brendan Hamill 88'), 13. Jonatan Germano, 15. David Williams (17. Jason Hoffman 41'), 16. Aziz Behich, 18. Curtis Good, 23. Mate Dugandzic.

Unused substitutes: 30. Sebastian Mattei (gk)
Yellow cards: Matt Thompson 8', Wayne Shroj 37', Simon Colosimo 60', Maycon 86', Aziz Behich 90+2'.
Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 1. Liam Reddy, 3. Jamie Coyne, 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Karol Kisel, 10. Nick Carle, 15. Terry McFlynn (23. Rhyan Grant 40'), 17. Terry Antonis, 19. Mark Bridge (9. Bruno Cazarine 69'), 21. Scott Jamieson,

Unused substitutes: 2. Sebastian Ryall, 20. Ivan Necevski
Yellow cards: Terry Antonis 1', Jamie Coyne 59', Nick Carle 63'.
Red cards: Nil

Carle salvages late point

By Daniel Quinn

Nick Carle has salvaged a point for Sydney FC as Pascal Bosschaart's cross was touched home by the attacking midfielder. However it was Maycon for Melbourne Heart who opened his account in the A-League and for the game in the 85th minute.

Melbourne Heart went into the clash at AAMI Park with an unchanged line-up whereas Sydney make two changes with 'keeper Liam Reddy replacing Ivan Necevski and Mark Bridge returning from suspension to replace Bruno Cazarine in the Sydney attack.

Just as the game kicked off the heavens opened over AAMI Park just like 14 of their 17 games last season. Melbourne Heart had the first chance on 14 minutes with Alex Terra chipping a through ball over the top which then fell for Matt Thompson who put his header over Liam Reddy before he tipped over for a corner. From the resulting corner Liam Reddy dropped the slippery ball but Terry Antonis was on the line to clear.

On 21 minutes Terra once again had an attempt after Pascal Bosschaart was pressured into giving the ball away but his chip went over the Sydney goal.

Sydney's first chance came on 24 minutes with Socceroo Brett Emerton with a deflected shot. But the shot went straight into the hands of Clint Bolton. At this stage of the game Sydney FC were dominating in the midfield with Terry Antonis, Nick Carle and Karol Kisel whereas Heart were struggling to retain possession nor win it back. But the tie stayed nil all at half-time.

Sydney had the first chance of the



Inset left: Heart's Brazilian ace Maycon breaks the deadlock. Photo: ANITA MILAS Inset right: Sydney FC celebrate. Main picture: Heart keeper Clint Bolton can only watch Nick Carle's injury time equaliser hit the net. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

second-half through Karol Kisel but his shot just went wide after a brilliant move with Nick Carle. Melbourne Heart's real first chance of the second-half came on 70 minutes through Mate Dugandzic who put his free kick into the side netting as the majority of the crowd thought it was in. Sydney continued to attack with substitute Cazarine with a shot spilled by

Clint Bolton and Antonis' curling shot just missing the top corner. On 77 minutes John van't Schip put on Brazilian Striker Maycon who opened the scoring on 85 minutes as Mate Dugandzic's shot was deflected it fell for Maycon who turned and showed his strength to push off the defenders to put it into the net. The game was not over though. On the third added minute of stoppage

time Karol Kisel put his shot over the bar but Chris Beath saw a deflection. With the resulting corner by Emerton Grant had a header saved and as Behich cleared it Pascal Bosschaart crossed it low for Carle to touch home. Melbourne Heart next week travel to Adelaide on Friday night whereas Sydney host Gold Coast on Sunday.

M	Match Stats	
5	Saves	2
4	Attempts on target	7
6	Attempts off target	10
53%	Possession	47%
7	Corners	3
3	Offsides	3
14	Fouls committed	17



Mirror image: Two skilful playmakers of the Aussie game, Mate Dugandzic (Heart) and Brett Emerton (Sydney FC). Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Goalmouth action as Terry Antonis tries to clear the lines for the Sky Blues. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Gold Coast United

Newcastle Jets

Match Details

Gold Coast United 3 (Rigters 11', Rees 58', Brown 83')
Newcastle Jets 1 (Wheelhouse 68')
Ht: 1-0
At Skilled Park, Gold Coast
Referee: Kris Griffith-Jones

Gold Coast United:
1.Glen Moss [Gk], 3.Michael Thwaite (C), 5.Kristian Rees, 6.Paul Beekmans, 8.Robson, 12.Dylan Macallister (21. Daniel Severino 85'), 15.Adama Traore, 16.Maceo Rigters (29.Mitch Bevan 90+1'), 18.James Brown, 22.Peter Jungschlager (27.Ambes Yosief 80'), 23.Dylan McGowan,

Unused Subs: 20.Jerrad Tyson [Gk].
Yellow Cards: None.
Red Cards: NOne.

Newcastle Jets:
1.Ben Kennedy [Gk], 2.Taylor Regan, 4.Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 6.Ben Kantarovski, 7.Kasey Wehrman (14. Labinot Haliti 46'), 8.Jeremy Brockie (22.Ali Abbas 82'), 10.Ruben Zadkovic, 11.Tarek Elrich, 12.Jobie Wheelhouse (C) (18.Marko Jesic 75'), 13.Sung-Hwan Byun, 23.Ryan Griffiths.

Unused Subs: 19.Matthew Nash [Gk].
Yellow Cards: Zadkovich 90'
Red Cards: None.

Coast display goalden form

By Neil Favager

GOALS from Maceo Rigters, Kristian Rees and James Brown secured Gold Coast United's first win of the season as they overcame Newcastle Jets 3-1 at Skilled Park.

The victory sees Miron Bleiberg's men move nicely up the table and put their early season critics on notice that they will have plenty to say this term when it comes to contesting finals places.

Even without young flyer Ben Halloran (foot) and Joel Porter (calf), Gold Coast created numerous chances in the match, just as they have done in all their previous three games. The difference this time though was in the execution with Rigters, Rees and Brown all finding the net emphatically.

After a nervous start United took an early lead with a quality goal from Dutch forward Maceo Rigters. The strike was his first in the Hyundai A-League, but today's performance suggests there will be many more to come from the powerful hit-man.

A raking 70-metre diagonal ball from Michael Thwaite started the 11th minute move, finding Dylan McGowan scampering forward down the right hand side. A neat combination followed with Paul Beekmans who slipped the ball to Rigters on the edge of the box. Still with plenty to do to fashion



Kristian Rees follows up the Rigters' free kick to stick away Gold Coast's second goal of the match. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

a shooting opportunity, Rigters cleverly made enough room for himself before smashing the ball past the despairing dive of Jets custodian Ben Kennedy.

The goal clearly lifted the already confident Rigters who proceeded to shoot on sight for the rest of the half. The Dutchman was involved in most of United's attacking forays and on 30 minutes his slide-rule pass set Dylan Macallister free. With Tarek Elrich straining to get back, Macallister delayed his shot just long enough for the Newcastle

defender to make a last ditch challenge.

The visitors' best chance to level came midway through the first period when some shoddy Gold Coast defending allowed Jobe Wheelhouse to pounce on a loose ball, but the Jets' skipper scuffed his effort and Glen Moss was able to save comfortably.

At the start of the second period Gold Coast twice went close to increasing their lead. First Rigters wriggled through the Jets defence before drilling his shot just wide of the near post, then

James Brown burst free of his marker only to see his effort well saved by Kennedy.

Just moments later Michael Thwaite had to be at his best to thwart Jets substitute Labino Haliti who was poised to fire into an unguarded net as the visitors looked for a way back into the match.

But United were breathing more easily on the hour when they doubled their lead. After Adama Traore's marauding run was brought to an abrupt halt, Peter Jungschlager stepped up

Match Stats		
3	Saves	3
7	Attempts on target	6
14	Attempts off target	11
45%	Possession	55%
4	Corners	3
4	Offsides	2
7	Fouls committed	16

to crash the resulting free-kick goalwards. His powerful low strike was too hot to handle for Ben Kennedy and the ball fell invitingly for the recalled Kristian Rees to blast the ball into the roof of the net.

Within ten minutes the Jets pulled one back through skipper Jobe Wheelhouse who found himself in acres of space after a free-kick made its way through a sea of legs in the United box.

Gold Coast responded well to the temporary setback though. Rees hit the post after Macallister did well to clip the ball into his path and Brown crashed a free-kick inches over the bar.

However, the irrepressible Brown wasn't to be denied his third goal in four games when fed with a delicious through ball from man-of-the-man Paul Beekmans with seven minutes to go. Streaking past his defender and taking the ball in his stride, Brown drove his effort past Kennedy to make the points safe for United.



Gold Coast's James Brown sprints clear and puts the game beyond doubt. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Maceo Rigters gives the thumbs up after smashing a great goal worthy of his EPL experience. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Wellington Phoenix

1

Melbourne Victory

2

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 1
(Dani Sanchez 71')
Melbourne Victory 2
(Archie Thompson 42', Carlos Hernandez 68' (pen))
Sunday 30 October 2011
Venue: Westpac Stadium

Phoenix: 20. Tony Warner (GK), 3. Tony Lochhead, 6. Tim Brown, 7. Leo Bertos, 9. Chris Greenacre, 11. Daniel (12. Nicky Ward 77'), 13. Niko Tsattalios, 18. Ben Sigmund, 21. Dani Sanchez, 22. Andrew Durante (C), 24. Alex Smith (4. Brent Griffiths 67')

Yellow cards: Sanchez
Red cards: Sigmund

Victory: 21. Ante Covic (GK), 2. Matthew Foschini, 3. Fabio, 6. Leigh Broxham, 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano (18. Danny Allsopp 71'), 10. Archie Thompson (c), 12. Rodrigo Vargas 15. Tom Pondeljak (11. Marco Rojas 63'), 16. Carlos Hernandez, 22. Harry Kewell (14. Billy Celeski 88'), 23. Adrian Leijer.

Yellow cards: Fabio, Pondeljak.
Red cards: None

Melbourne escapes to victory

By Joe Gallagher

Melbourne Victory bagged their first two goals of the campaign and leap-frogged their opponents in Wellington with a 2-1 win over Wellington Phoenix.

Though the match was billed as a showcase of Victory's two big-name off season signings, it was their old names who got them across the line. Instead of the Kewell and Rojas show (the latter started from the bench), this match was won by goals to Archie Thompson and Carlos Hernandez.

The Phoenix controlled long patches early in the match but were wasteful in front of goal, and fell behind in the first half to a superb strike from the A-League's most prolific scorer, New Zealand-born Thompson.

Their woes were compounded in the 67th minute when Ben Sigmund saw red (Wellington's fourth in as many games) for bringing down Thompson in the penalty area. Hernandez converted the spot kick, and suddenly the Phoenix were two goals and a man down to show for their efforts.

Though Spaniard Dani Sanchez scored four minutes later to put Wellington back in the match, the Phoenix were dealt just their third home loss in three seasons.

They will look at their lack of killer instinct at the front of the park in the first half to where the game was lost.

Tim Brown, Sanchez and Leo Bertos missed a handful of clearcut chances in the first half, the closest of which falling to Brown, who's header was smartly kept out by keeper Ante Covic, a matter of minutes after he blazed over the top when one-on-one with the Victory stopper.

But with five minutes to go until the break it was Melbourne who took the lead – Thompson smartly turning on the edge of the area before rifling past Tony Warner in the Phoenix goal. It was the Victory's first goal this season and was met with great relief for coach Mehmet Durakovic and Thompson – the striker wheeling away and celebrating with what appeared to be a haka in front of the Yellow Fever, which welcomed new Phoenix owner Gareth



Victory's Adrian Leijer stretches to combat Daniel Sanchez (Phoenix) with Leigh Broxham (Victory) also at the scene. Photo: PETER McDONALD

Morgan to its midst.

Phoenix might have felt they had drawn level after Daniel's goal was chalked out early in the second half. The Brazilian turned in Chris Greenacre's shot after it twice hit the post but was adjudged to have played the ball out of Covic's hands.

From there, a Thompson-led Melbourne took control. Sigmund's dismissal followed excellent build up play from the Victory front men, and Hernandez made no mistake from the spot. Despite Sanchez's smart finish from 18 yards, Wellington's late pressure never quite looked like producing a second. The match had been lost by poor finishing and coach Ricki Herbert was left scratching his head at

Wellington's disciplinary record.

Four red cards in four matches has seen too many forced changes in a squad already thin due to injuries and a lack of depth.

But on the Melbourne bench, Durakovic can be delighted as well as relieved. Victory's season is underway with their first win, the display of Thompson was excellent and they have taken full points from a ground where they haven't won since 2008. They might have won by more, with a good chance coming to Kewell and a Thompson goal ruled out late on.

Even Marco Rojas, who may have been excused an off day against his former club and a ten-thousand-strong crowd chant-

ing 'Judas' to his every touch, was at his elusive and creative best at the front of the park after joining the match shortly before Hernandez's goal.

Melbourne will look forward to a mouth-watering clash with Brisbane on Saturday. They are the last team to have beaten the Roar and if anybody can break the champions, it is an on-song Victory.

But for Wellington, it's back to the drawing board – facing a short turnaround before turning out against Central Coast on Friday. They will need to be more deadly and more disciplined, and will desperately want to avoid successive home losses at their Westpac Stadium fortress.

The unfamiliar taste of defeat felt from

Match Stats		
1	Saves	6
8	Attempts on target	3
10	Attempts off target	6
44%	Possession	56%
2	Corners	9
1	Offsides	2
16	Fouls committed	9

Wellington's fans as they left the stadium was accompanied by a very familiar feeling of warning for the entire A-League: on the evidence of this performance, the Victory are back.



Daniel Sanchez scores for the Phoenix to set up a tense finish. Photo: PETER McDONALD



Chris Greenacre puts the Victory defence under pressure as Adrian Leijer lunges to block the shot. Photo: PETER McDONALD

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Line Ups

Adelaide United squad:
1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk)
2.Osama MALIK
4.Jon McKAIN
5.Daniel MULLEN
6.CASSIO
7.Zenon CARAVELLA
8.Evgeniy LEVCHENKO
9.Sergio VAN DIJK
10.Dario VIDOSIC
11.Bruce DJITE
14.Cameron WATSON
16.Spase DILEVSKI
17.Iain RAMSAY
20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
21.Francisco USUCAR
22.Milan SUSAK
23.Andy SLORY
two to be omitted

In: Bruce DJITE (returns from injury), Cameron WATSON (promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

Adelaide United v Melbourne Heart

Fri 4 Nov Hindmarsh Stdm 8:00pm

By Nat Adamopoulos

Football fans would be hard pressed to choose who's shoes they would rather be in between Reds Coach Rini Coolen or Melbourne Hearts boss John van't Schip, with both teams teams occupying ninth and tenth place on the Hyundai A-League after four rounds.

Redemption is the only option for Coolen and his Reds, after coming off an absolute annihilation 7-1 drubbing from champions Brisbane Roar last week at Suncorp, a night he would rather forget. But after coming under attack from unforgiving fans across many football forums, Coolen did not shy away from the enormity of the loss and the exposure of the sides weaknesses.

"If you look at the game in Brisbane, of course you're very disappointed with a result like that. I've never had that before in my life as a coach, conceding so many goals in just 10 minutes. The real story is that there's a big gap between Brisbane and the rest of the teams, including Adelaide United," Coolen said.

Hearts coach van't Schip knows the feeling all too well after his own side took a battering by Roar last year in a 4-0 loss. But van't Schip would probably beg to differ in where his side stands at the moment having narrowly missed out taking full points against Sydney FC last week, after a late Nick Carle equalizer in the 94th. Still waiting for their first season win, van't Schip said the side would do whatever it took to score a breakthrough win on Friday.

"What counts is that we've played four games and got two points. Everyone will forget in a few weeks' time that we've played very well and had no luck. Luck you deserve by working hard and believing in what you are doing and then it will turn around. Hopefully that will start on Friday."

Depending on a final fitness test, the



Radio broadcaster: 891 ABC Adelaide / 774 ABC Melbourne

Reds To Bounce Back with Heart

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 3): Adelaide United wins 2, Melbourne Heart wins 1 (0 draws)
Odds: AUFC 2.07 Draw 3.40 Heart 3.75

Hearts coach is hopeful of having the services of club captain Fred for the clash with the Reds, recovering from a stained hamstring that has kept him out of the last two drawn rounds. The visitors chances of downing the wounded United have also been boosted by the signing of five-time Socceroos defender Adrian Madaschi. The 29-year-old, who's been training with Melbourne Victory, will be up for selection to debut Friday night pending the approval of his clearance from Portosummaga in Italy's Lega Pro Prima Divisione. Hearts pulled the Socceroo right out from under their cross town rivals noses when salary cap issues got in the way, offering of a 10-week contract as an injury replacement player for Kliment Taseski who will miss at least three months with a foot injury.

Reds coach Coolen is adamant that there

is no panic in the club as they try to find a winning formula and look to make a massive turnaround.

"We have to stick together, work as a team and trust each other. I trust our players, I trust the people in our club, I trust myself – so there's no reason to panic but we have to be aware of everything and we're not doing well at the moment. After a game like that (against Brisbane) and again not having the result you want, you have to consider a few things, especially when there are people knocking on the door at training and in the Youth Team, that's for us to think about and for us to consider this week."

And he has plenty of options to choose from, having all players fit and available for the crucial Friday night' game, a rare luxury timed to perfection. All 21 players

on the Reds' list are injury free, with the return of striker Bruce Djite the most welcomed after suffering a groin strain in the Melbourne Victory match in Rnd 2. Equally as positive as Djite's return is the news that finally, defender Nigel Boogaard and midfielder Fabian Barbiero are ready, both making successful comebacks in United's Youth Team last week joining other senior listed players Cameron Watson, Ricardo Da Silva and Antony Golec in helping the young Reds record a 3-1 over Brisbane Roar's Youth Team.

All that being said, the stage is set for an all out battle between the two sides..... with the Reds hopefully coming up trumps for their fans.

**Kiss of Death
Adelaide 2-1 Heart**

MELBOURNE
HEART



Line Ups

Melbourne Heart:
1.Clint Bolton
2.Michael Marrone
3.Brendan Hamill
4.Simon Colosimo
5.Fred
6.Matt Thompson
7.Rutger Worm
8.Kristian Sarkies
9.Maycon
10.Wayne Srhoj
11.Alex Terra
13.Jonatan Germano
15.David Williams
16.Aziz Behich
17.Jason Hoffman
23. Mate Dugandzic
25.Adrian Madaschi
30.Sebastian Mattei
two to be omitted

In: 5.Fred (returns from injury), 8.Kristian Sarkies (promoted), 25.Adrian Madaschi (pending clearance)
Out: 18. Curtis Good (International Duty – Qantas Young Socceroos 1 week)
Unavailable: 14.Kamal Ibrahim (Ankle – 3 Weeks), 21.Kliment Taseski (Foot Fracture – Long Term), 22.Nick Kalmar (Back – 4 Weeks)



Line Ups

Wellington Phoenix:
1. Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3. Tony Lochhead
4. Brent Griffiths
6. Tim Brown
7. Leo Bertos
9. Chris Greenacre
11. Daniel
12. Nicky Ward
13. Niko Tsattalios
15. Cameron Lindsay
20. Tony Warner (GK)
21. Dani Sanchez
22. Andrew Durante (C)
24. Alex Smith

In: Manny Muscat (from suspension)
Out: Ben Sigmund (suspended – 1 match).
Unavailable: Lucas Pantelis (knee injury - indefinite), Mirjan Pavlovic (broken arm – 5 weeks), Vince Lia (knee injury – 4 weeks), Paul Ifill (groin injury – 2 weeks), Jimmy Downey (quad injury – 1 week).

Wellington Phoenix v Mariners

Fri 4 Nov Westpac Stadium 5:30pm

By Joe Gallagher

Despite pulling together arguably their most impressive start to an A-League season in their five year existence, Wellington Phoenix find themselves on a two game losing streak and a short turn around before facing Central Coast Mariners on Friday.

Melbourne Victory's triumph against the hosts on Sunday has meant that Wellington, despite having the running in each of their four games this term, have picked up just four points out of a possible twelve. Not necessarily a poor start by any stretch, but one that coach Ricki Herbert will be disappointed with, judging by their performances since day one.

The causes for Wellington's woes are two-fold; their finishing and their discipline. While they have created chances all season, the lack of a proven goalscorer and the absence of star attacker Paul Ifill has hurt them. Ifill will again be missing this weekend and the pressure will be on the likes of Chris Greenacre and Dani Sanchez to create goals and to re-establish some home form after Sunday's disappointment against Melbourne.

At the same time, Ricki Herbert will be forced into his fourth change of the season due to suspension – in just four games. This time it's Ben Sigmund, dismissed for hauling down Archie Thompson in the Phoenix's last outing.



Phoenix Rising

Radio broadcaster: 1035AM The Radio Network Wellington / 96.3FM Coast FM Gosford

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 12): Phoenix wins 5, Mariners wins 5 (2 draws)
Odds: Phoenix 2.50 Draw 3.30 Mariners 2.90

nix's last outing. Sigmund will be missed in a defensive line that has been constantly reshuffled this term. To remedy the loss of Sigmund is the return of the impressive Manny Muscat from a suspension of his own, who will likely slot straight back into right-back in place of Niko Tsattalios, who was kept busy in an unspectacular Phoenix debut on Sunday.

But for a side that lives and breathes confidence, the Phoenix's mental capabilities will truly be stretched. The Phoenix will now come into this match with a vulnerability they haven't felt for quite some time in New Zealand's capital. Last weekend's defeat at the hands of an under-fire Victory means that for opposition teams, winning in

Wellington is no longer an impossible task.

Central Coast will be keen to unlock this vulnerability and will approach this match with huge confidence after coming from behind to defeat the previously unbeaten Perth last weekend. Knowing that they dealt the Phoenix a thrashing a year ago (3-0) in Wellington, the Phoenix's impressive home record may appear that extra bit less daunting.

Up front they have Matt Simon, who scored one and set up the other in the come-from-behind triumph in Gosford and the ever-impressive Matt Ryan will take his rightful place in goal. The pair will form formidable opponents as Ricki Herbert attempts

to keep the former quiet, and the latter busy.

No doubt Westpac Stadium will see a real six-pointer on Friday night. Home advantage is usually a clear indicator to a Phoenix win, but this weekend, things are just that little bit different.

To both sides, three points are gold. A win is vital to either side's ambitions to climb the table and keep in touch with the likes of Brisbane and Perth, who already seem to be well ahead of the pack in the start to the title race.

**Kiss of Death
Phoenix 2-1 Mariners**



Line Ups

Central Coast Mariners Squad:
1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Brad Porter
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
8. Rostyn Griffiths
9. Bernie Ibini
10. Adriano Pellegrino
11. Oliver Bozanic
12. Troy Hearfield
14. Michael McGlinchey
18. Alex Wilkinson
19. Matt Simon
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
22. Mustafa Amini
one to be omitted

In: Brad Porter (Promoted)

Out: 7. John Hutchinson (Omitted), 15. Brad McDonald (Omitted), 16. Trent Sainsbury (Omitted), 17. Michael Baird (Omitted), 21. Sam Gallagher (Omitted), 23. Adam Kwasnik (Omitted)

Unavailable: Stuart Musialik (Adductor – 2 weeks)

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Line Ups

Newcastle Jets:
1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
2. Taylor Regan
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
6. Ben Kantarovski
7. Kasey Wehrman
8. Jeremy Brockie
10. Ruben Zadkovich
11. Tarek Elrich
12. Jobe Wheelhouse (c)
13. Sung-Hwan Byun
14. Labinot Haliti
15. Chris Payne
17. James Virgili
19. Matthew Nash
22. Ali Abbas
23. Ryan Griffiths
24. Francis Jeffers
25. Jacob Pepper
three to be omitted

In: 24. Francis Jeffers (new signing), 17. James Virgili (promoted), 25. Jacob Pepper (promoted), 15. Chris Payne (promoted)
Out: 18. Marko Jesic,
Unavailable: 5. Tiago Calvano (injured)

Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory

Sat 5 Nov Ausgrid Stadium 5:30pm

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets will welcome back former England, Arsenal and Everton striker Francis Jeffers for their round 5 a-league clash against the Perth Glory at Ausgrid Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The clash will be of vital importance for both sides as they look to bounce back from disappointing round 4 results.

The Jets continued their terrible away form in an error riddled display that resulted in a 3-1 defeat to Gold Coast United.

Perth can be considered somewhat unlucky, having produced a fluid, enterprising display away against the Mariners which culminated in a 2-1 defeat.

The Glory players have spent the week on the east coast and will no doubt be looking fresh and up for the challenge of beating the Jets at Ausgrid.

It will be no easy task for the 2nd placed visitors as the Jets seem to be a completely different side in front of their own fans and have yet to taste defeat at home this season.

It will also be the first game back at Ausgrid Stadium for championship winning mentor Gary Van Egmond since he began his second spell in charge of the club.

The Novocastrian faithful will have something different to look forward



Radio broadcaster: 1233 ABC Newcastle / 91.3 Sport FM Perth

Jeffers Returns for Crack at Glory

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 18): Newcastle Jets wins 5, Perth Glory wins 9 (4 draws)
Odds: Jets 2.45 Draw 3.30 Glory 2.85

to with Van Egmond taking no time to change the shape and structure of his line up.

Gone is the 4-2-3-1 system that was in place for the majority of the pre-season, with the man the fans affectionately call 'Dutchy' preferring a more attacking 4-3-3.

Providing he has impressed his manager with his fitness, the fans can expect to see Jeffers at the point of the system.

When last at the club, Jeffers' arrival triggered a 7 game unbeaten streak with the Jets playing some of the best attacking football they had played since their championship win-

ning season.

Critics argued that he didn't score many goals himself, only hitting the back of the net once, but he created ample opportunities for his teammates.

For the cause of the Jets, he will have to as the Glory arrive at Ausgrid in fine form with strike power right across the park.

The deadly Shane Smeltz will headline the Glory attack and the kiwi striker has always made it a habit of scoring against the Jets.

He will be given plenty of ammunition from the left, with winger Andrezinho already looking to be one of the buys

of the season with his dazzling trickery and pace.

Liam Miller has also shown his pedigree and has ensured that the Glory machine has been purring along nicely. You only need to look at the man for a few minutes in a match to tell that he has graced the premier league.

The Jets will have the opportunity to go level on points with the Glory if they can win this game, but the Glory are a different proposition this season. The Jets will remain unbeaten at home but will likely have to settle for a share of the spoils.

Kiss of Death
Jets 2-2 Glory



Line Ups

Perth Glory Squad:
1. Danny Vukovic (Gk)
2. Josh Mitchell
3. Bas Van Den Brink
4. Billy Mehmet
6. Chris Coyne
7. Jacob Burns (C)
8. Adam Hughes
9. Shane Smeltz
10. Liam Miller
12. Scott Neville
13. Travis Dodd
14. Steven McGarry
15. Tommy Amphlett
17. Todd Howarth
19. Josh Risdon
21. Mile Sterjovski
27. Andrezinho
30. Lewis Italiano (Gk)
three to be omitted

In: 15. Tommy Amphlett, 19. Josh Risdon, 21. Mile Sterjovski
Out: Nil
Unavailable: 5. Steve Pantelidis (Achilles), 11. Victor Sikora (Hip – Long Term Injury List), 20. Neil Young (Abdominal Injury), 16. Evan Berger (Hamstring – 6-8 Weeks), 18. Jesse Makarounas (International Duty – Qantas Young Socceroos 1 Week), 22. Adam Taggart (International Duty – Qantas Young Socceroos



Line Ups

Melbourne Victory:
2. Matthew Foschini
3. Fabio
6. Leigh Broxham
7. Matthew Kemp
9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
12. Rodrigo Vargas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
15. Tom Pondeljak
16. Carlos Hernandez
18. Danny Allsopp
20. Lawrence Thomas (GK)
21. Ante Covic (GK)
22. Harry Kewell
23. Adrian Leijer (c)
two to be omitted

In: 7. Matthew KEMP (promoted), 13. Diogo FERREIRA (promoted),

Out: 8. Grant BREBNER (calf), 19. Isaka Cernak (omitted)

Unavailable: Tando Velaphi (stress fracture)

Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar

Sat 5 Nov Etihad Stadium 7:45pm

By John Clark

Ange Postecoglou's Brisbane Roar visit Etihad Stadium this weekend hoping to extend their unbeaten streak to 33 in a game that, even at this early stage, is being billed as the match of the season.

The Roar was in scintillating form last weekend, as they dissected Adelaide with crisp passing and clinical finishing. What makes the Roar's performance even more special was that for the first twenty minutes Adelaide dominated the contest and could have added to their 1-0 lead, but as has been the case for their last 32 matches the Roar never panicked and eventually systematically destroyed the Reds. Jon McKain conceded an unforgivable penalty, which Henrique duly converted. Fifteen minutes later the Roar lead 5-1, Berisha had a hat-trick, Henrique a brace and Adelaide's spirit was broken. By the end of the night Brisbane had scored 7 and in all reality were a touch unlucky to not have reached double figures.

The Victory finally scored their first goal of the season on the weekend and even more importantly came away with their first win of the campaign with a scrappy 2-1 triumph over the Phoenix. Archie Thompson was almost single handedly respon-



Radio broadcaster: 774 ABC Melbourne / 1116 SEN Melbourne / 88.6 Plenty Valley FM Melbourne

Victory seek to tame the Roar

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 18): Melbourne Victory wins 10, Brisbane Roar wins 5 (3 draws)
Odds: Victory 3.85
Draw 3.50 Roar 2.00

sible for the three points coming back to Melbourne, with a classical first half strike and earning a second half penalty when he was dragged down when in on goal. The performance wasn't one for the ages, but you feel an ugly win might be just the tonic the Victory need to kick start their season.

There will be have to be a vast improvement across the board if they are to challenge the Roar however, but I think that Durakovic is starting to feel a bit more comfortable with his squad having Hernandez and Kewell start again is a must this weekend.

Durakovic may also have to make a decision between Brebner and Broxham, depending on the Scotsman's fitness. Ange Postecoglou will switch between a 4-3-3 and a 3-4-3 depending on how the Victory line up, but his players are given a bit more of a licence to free wheel, particularly Thomas Broich who will start on the left, but is free to drift inside.

The Victory certainly took it right up to the Roar in there last meeting and were denied three points by a poor refereeing decision when Michael Theoklitos handled outside the box then punted the ball long for Matt

McKay to score a 93rd minute equalizer. Earlier the Victory erased a 2-0 deficit in fifteen second half minutes. Earlier in the season the Victory defeated Brisbane 3-0 at AAMI Park, which incidentally was the Roar's last defeat.

This has the makings of a classic contest on paper, but the corresponding form lines of these sides are poles apart and given what we've seen so far this season it's hard to see the Roar not taking all three points here.

Kiss of Death
Victory 1-3 Roar



Line Ups

Brisbane Roar:
1. Michael Theoklitos (Gk)
2. Matt Smith (C)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
6. Erik Paaratlu
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Muroccca
9. Kofi Danning
10. Henrique
11. Issey Nakajima-Farran
16. Mohamed Adnan
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
20. Andrew Redmayne
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
two to be omitted

In: James Meyer (Promoted), Luke Brattan (Promoted), Andrew Redmayne (Returns From Injury)

Out: 30. Matt Acton (Short Term Cover Expired)

Unavailable: 12. Matt Mundy (Knee Injury – 1 Week)

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Line Ups

Sydney FC:
1. Liam Reddy
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Jamie Coyne
4. Pascal Bosshaart
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Hirofumi Moriyasu
7. Brett Emerton
8. Karol Kisel
9. Bruno Cazarine
10. Nick Carle
11. Dimi Petratos
12. Shannon Cole
15. Terry McFlynn (c)
19. Mark Bridge
20. Ivan Necevski
21. Scott Jamieson
23. Rhyan Grant
two to be omitted

In: Hirofumi Moriyasu, Shannon Cole (both return from injury)

Out: Terry Antonis (International Duty – Qantas Young Socceroos 1 week)
Unavailable: Juho Makela (quad, 2 weeks)

Sydney FC v Gold Coast United

Sun 6 Nov SFS 5:00pm

By Mike Salter

Sydney FC face a confident Gold Coast United side at the Sydney Football Stadium on Sunday, with both teams looking to make up ground on the leaders after an indifferent start to the campaign. To their fans' dismay, Sydney FC will be without their young star Terry Antonis, who is off on Young Socceroo duty in Malaysia. The teenage attacker has been attracting plenty of praise for his early-season performances, and his absence may yet induce Vitezslav Lavicka to alter his formation somewhat; club captain Terry McFlynn is struggling for fitness, which could result in young Rhyan Grant receiving a rare start. In better news for the Sky Blues, Brett Emerton looks to have shrugged off his injury concerns and is likely to start. Nick Carle, whose last-ditch equaliser earned Sydney FC a valuable point in their last outing against Melbourne Heart, is running into ominous form; with Antonis absent, it is more than likely that Lavicka will opt for a front two of



Bruno Cazarine and Mark Bridge, who made a welcome return to the side last week, with Carle in the "hole". Karol Kisel and Emerton will presumably fill the wide midfield roles if Lavicka persists with his preferred diamond 4-4-2 setup. As for the visitors, a morale-boosting 3-1 win over the Newcastle Jets last week, featuring yet another goal from red-hot winger James Brown, provided the perfect lead-up to their Round 5 fixture. Dutchman Maceo Rigters

got off the mark in the A-League with a fulminating long-range strike, and Lavicka will no doubt instruct his charges to mark the former Blackburn Rovers man closely on Sunday. The other player on the scoresheet against the Jets, veteran defender Kristian Rees, will be celebrating his 100th game in the A-League on Sunday. Like their hosts, Gold Coast will lose a player to the Young Socceroo qualifying tournament in Malaysia, but Jake Barker-Daish

is hardly a first-team regular in Miron Bleiberg's side, and the loss will not be felt as keenly as that of Antonis for Sydney FC. The last time these two sides met at the SFS the hosts took away the points, with goals to Dimitri Petratos and Juho Makela. Perhaps it is a good omen for United that these two players are unlikely to be starting...

Kiss of Death
SFC 2-2 Gold Coast



Line Ups

Gold Coast United Squad:
1. Glen Moss [Gk]
3. Michael Thwaite (C)
4. Zac Anderson
5. Kristian Rees
6. Paul Beekmans
8. Robson
12. Dylan Macallister
14. Ben Halloran
15. Adama Traore
16. Maceo Rigters
18. James Brown
20. Jerrad Tyson [Gk]
21. Daniel Severino
22. Peter Jungschlager
23. Dylan McGowan
27. Ambes Yosief
29. Mitch Bevan
31. Daniel Bragg.
three to be omitted

In: 4. Zac Anderson (Promoted), 14. Ben Halloran (Return From Foot Injury), 31. Daniel Bragg (Promoted).
Out: Nil.
Unavailable: 2. Josh Brillante (International Duty), 9. Joel Porter (Calf – 3 Weeks), 13. Ante Rozic (Knee – 3 Weeks), 19. Chris Broadfoot (Ankle Injury – 6 Weeks)

Player Profile - Perth Glory's Evan Berger

EVAN SEEKS WESTERN OPPORTUNITIES

By Jonathan Demos

'Opportunity'. It's a word bandied around a lot within the football industry. For Evan Berger it is a word that sums up his move to Perth Glory from Melbourne Victory in the off season. After initially breaking his way into the Melbourne Victory first team, Berger played an important role in Ernie Merrick's 2008/09 championship winning side starting 12 matches at left back throughout the campaign. Two seasons in the A-League and the small defender originally from New South Wales was playing first team football for Australia's most successful domestic club. "It was great to be a part of it and actually contribute that season so it is something I'll live with for the rest of my life which was a great experience to be a part of and something I'll never forget." Berger said of his break-out season with the Victory. However the following two seasons with the Victory saw Berger become a victim of a strong squad and heavy competition for first eleven places. What followed was irregular football and less opportunity in the Victory's starting side. It proved to be the catalyst for the young defenders switch to Perth after the Glory came calling late last year. "That is one of the reasons I have moved over to try and get an opportunity and become a first team regular. Obviously the competition at Melbourne was really fierce and there were a lot of players vying for not many spots in the team" Berger said. However Berger is under no illusions and understands that it will take hard work and a good vein of form for him to crack it into the Glory's starting line-up this season. "The competition over here in Perth is really good as well and I think that will bring the best out of me over here."



Evan Berger (centre), with Shane Smeltz and Jacob Burns, in front of the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban, during Perth Glory's tour of South Africa prior to the A-League season commencing. Photo: STEVE NELKOVSKI

After four years living in Melbourne, you could be forgiven for thinking that the move to West Australia would have been a tough one for Berger, but with the help of his new teammates and a similar football environment the relocation has been made easy for the 24 year-old. "I've settled in really well, the boys have been great helping me settle in...It's a fairly similar set up football wise, the facilities over here are really good and the football and the training side have been really good as well so I couldn't have asked for a smoother

transition to be honest." Being forced to constantly move away from home and family and friends is one of the drawbacks of being a professional footballer. It is one of the sacrifices players make to further their careers. Famously, recently returned Socceroo Harry Kewell lived in Istanbul for three seasons playing for Galatasaray as his young family continued to reside in England. For Berger it is not a notion he is completely unfamiliar with. As a teenager from Lakesland, New South Wales he moved to Canberra and lived at the

Australian Institute of Sport as a member of the Young Socceroos squad. Berger believes the year in Canberra as a teenager has benefited him in the long run. "That gave me a good grounding for what it would be like to live away from home, away from Mum and Dad, family and friends." Likewise the move down south to Melbourne Victory on his first professional contract has made the move to the Glory a little easier. "To be fair Melbourne Victory were first class in looking after all the youngsters

who had moved down there from interstate. So it wasn't that hard and that definitely made it a lot easier when I moved from Melbourne over to Perth." Berger's time with the Young Socceroos at the Institute of Sport not only prepared him for the move away from family and friends but also for life as a professional footballer. "I came out of the institute and went back into the state league before I signed for Victory so I had a look at both worlds and definitely the AIS helped a lot as far as preparing you to move into a professional environment."

Berger also attended the famous Westfield Sports High School and credits the school and its football program for his continued development. Berger aside, the school boasts an a long list of A-League talent as former students and it's notable alumni include Socceroos Jason Culina, Alex Brosque and Harry Kewell. "I was very lucky to attend Westfield Sports High school which had a very good football program there. We trained pretty much four or five times a week so that held me in good stead moving into the professional ranks." Despite serving a complete apprenticeship at Westfield Sports High as well as with the Young Socceroos and Marconi Stallions, Berger still initially struggled with his move to the A-League. In his debut season with the Victory, the defender was hindered by injury and only managed a meagre 59 minutes of time on the park. It is a time which Berger looks back on as a learning experience. "I think in the long run it definitely helped me a lot" Berger said. "It was hard, probably the first time in my career that I'd had a couple of bad injuries but I learnt a lot about myself on and off the park regarding rehab and getting your body right." Four years on and Berger is vastly more experienced footballer. He has won a Championship with the Melbourne Victory and has played in two Grand Finals. There is no doubt he will be using this experience along with his pace down the left flank to work his way into Ian Ferguson's plans for the Glory this season. One thing is for sure – he won't stop trying.

Follow Jonathan on Twitter @jldemos

Madaschi Joins Heart

Melbourne Heart FC confirms the signing of defender Adrian Madaschi.

A five-time Socceroo, Madaschi joins Heart on a 10-week deal as an injury replacement player for Kliment Taseski who will miss at least three months with a foot injury.

With Adrian Zahra still likely to be unavailable for some time, and Curtis Good and Aziz Behich also set to miss crucial Hyundai A-League matches through international duty, Head Coach John van 't Schip feels Madaschi will offer valuable cover at the back.

"We are excited to welcome Adrian to the Club for the next two months. He's a player who has excellent experience at club and international level, and is highly professional in his approach to football, which is something Italian football is famous for," he said.

An imposing central defender, Madaschi's strength and ability to read the play have made him a regular member of the Australian national set-up, at both youth and senior levels, for over a decade.

Having featured in the FIFA U/20 and U/17 World Cup's, where he was named in the team of the tournament as the Joeys reached the final, in addition to earning selection to the Olyroos for the 2004 Olympic Games, Madaschi has amassed significant experience at the elite level.

Following a decade long stint abroad,



Adrian Madaschi

Team Hyundai scores winning goals for UNICEF



The Hyundai Motor Company Australia six-a-side football team has swapped its business shoes for football boots to take out the 2011 UNICEF Kick for Kids corporate challenge.

Kick for Kids is an annual charity tournament which helps raise much needed funds for UNICEF programs around the globe. The mixed corporate teams must field two women

at all times during play, and are required to raise \$5000 to enter the competition. The 2011 roster saw 20 teams take part, representing companies including Volkswagen, Audi, Qantas, Macquarie Bank, Coles and Powerade.

The 2011 Kick for Kids corporate tournament raised over \$95,000 to help fund vital UNICEF projects.

COOLEN FOCUSES ON IMPROVEMENT

By Nic Kerber

Openly admitting last Friday night's loss to Brisbane Roar was unacceptable, Adelaide United Head Coach Rini Coolen insists it is not panic stations at the Reds as they look to turn their fortunes around.

Coolen was on the front foot today to face the criticism following the carnage of the Reds' 7-1 defeat to the league leaders. Addressing the media after the Reds returned to training for the first time since Friday's forgettable night at Suncorp, the Reds boss did not shy away from the scale of the loss and his team's inability to stop a first half Roar onslaught.

"If you look at the game in Brisbane, of course you're very disappointed with a result like that. I've never had that before in my life as a coach, conceding so many goals in just 10 minutes...so in that way I think the game was only on for 30 minutes...and it definitely was not necessary," Coolen said.

"We have to move on...we're definitely not making any excuses for that, but we have to take that on board and be professional and do our work and change the way we've started the season because we've had a very bad season so far."

The rapidness and relative ease of Brisbane's first five goals, which came after Dario Vidosic had given the Reds a dream start with the opening goal on 5 minutes, was most concerning for Coolen.

From the time Henrique scored the Roar's equaliser from the penalty spot after the home side had opened



Dario Vidosic draws first blood for the Reds against Roar...just prior to the onslaught. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

up the Reds out wide, it all started to quickly unravel for United.

"At that stage the team was not doing the right things so we conceded the second goal and then the gaps were getting bigger and bigger, we were losing our shape and we lost the game in ten minutes because they scored four goals through individual mistakes and poor defending in the box," Coolen said.

"The real story is that there's a big gap between Brisbane and the rest of the teams, including Adelaide United."

Despite occupying ninth position on the table with just one win from four games, the season is still less than a month old and Coolen maintains he will not be taking any drastic measures as the Reds try to find a winning formula.

"I prefer not to panic because if I panic then what can I ask of the players? It's a period where you find out about people around you, in and out of the club, which mentality they have, and that's something you have to handle as a coach...we have to move on and have confidence in the people around us and solve problems. It's not easy but that's our job," Coolen said.

"We have to stick together, work as a team and trust each other. I trust our players, I trust the people in our club, I trust myself - so there's no reason to panic but we have to be aware of everything and we're not doing well at the moment."

But while Coolen's emphasises the importance for the club to stay united, he did not rule out the possibility of

changes for Friday's crucial home game against Melbourne Heart in what is a chance for the Reds to redeem themselves.

"Especially in this A-League and the way we prefer to play, we have to improve in a lot of things. We're not happy because as a team we are not doing well at the moment, so we have to make some decisions," Coolen said.

"After a game like that (against Brisbane) and again not having the result you want, you have to consider a few things, especially when there are people knocking on the door at training and in the Youth Team, that's for us to think about and for us to consider this week."

"To find the confirmation that we're looking for we still need a couple of days, but definitely we have to change something, especially our way of playing, and also maybe one, two or more new players."

In his assessment, Coolen also reserved a mention and praise for the Adelaide United fans, who he hoped would continue to stick by the team after enduring a rough start to a highly anticipated campaign.

"Our supporters are always supporting us in good moments and bad moments, and we know that they are there, so together we can solve a big problem and we prefer to look forwards and what you need is results," Coolen said.

"You don't get results for free, you have to work hard for it, and we have to work even harder and that's what we're doing from day to day."

SBS scores! Securing exclusive rights to the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups

SBS has cemented itself as the home of football securing the exclusive Australian television broadcast rights to both the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups™. SBS is already the exclusive broadcast rights holder to the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ in Brazil.

"SBS has a long and proud association with football and with the FIFA World Cup™ having been the official broadcaster since 1990," SBS Managing Director Michael Ebeid said.

"It is our dedication to football and to giving the most comprehensive live and free-to-air television coverage in Australia that cemented our bid.

"SBS has been the spiritual home of football for the last 30 years and this new deal with FIFA ensures that the greatest of all sporting events - the

FIFA World Cup™, will remain on SBS until at least 2022.

"A dedicated bid team at SBS has been working hard over many months to shore up this deal and I congratulate them for ensuring the long-standing partnership between SBS and FIFA continues for the next decade."

"We are particularly pleased with the development of our media rights and the reach of our events," said Niclas Ericson, Director of FIFA's TV Division.

"For every cycle we are reaching more fans than ever, and with the channels and media platforms of SBS we remain in very good hands for the 2015-2022 period."

"This is fantastic news for football fans and a great coup for SBS," SBS Head of Sport, Ken Shipp, said.

"In 2010, SBS broadcast the FIFA

World Cup™ live, free-to-air in SD, HD and 3D; in 11 languages on radio, streamed live online and in cinemas on 3D.

"We can only build on this in future years and expand into new areas including using our World Game app. SBS's successful bid is also well-deserved acknowledgement of our passion, dedication and football expertise which is unrivalled in Australia."



Short Passes

SFC PLAYERS AND STAFF TO TAKE PART IN MOVEMBER

Sydney FC has thrown its support behind the 2011 Movember Campaign with players and staff growing moustaches throughout November to help raise funds and awareness for men's health programs.

Movember is aimed at raising awareness to men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and depression. In 2010, more than \$72 million was raised globally to increase awareness and support programs run by Beyond Blue (the national depression initiative), the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and the Movember Foundation.

Sydney FC players and staff have registered as a "Movember Team" and are calling on all fans to get behind them and donate funds by logging onto www.movember.com.au.

"Movember is a great initiative and everyone at Sydney FC is pleased to get behind the cause," said Sydney FC Captain Terry McFlynn.

"Men's health issues are very important and particularly close to the males at Sydney FC, players and staff.

"It allows us to have some fun in and around the dressing room and club and help raise awareness for male depression and prostate cancer at the same time."

To donate money to the Movember Foundation Sydney FC fans can log onto www.movember.com.au, click onto DONATE and then click onto TO A TEAM and then insert SYDNEY FC.

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SYDNEY FC



PHOTO: COURTESY SYDNEY FC / DAVID MASON



Back row: Zeljko Kalac (goalkeeper coach), Dimi Petratos, Shannon Cole, Pascal Bosschaart, Nathan Sherlock, Joel Chianese, Hirofumi Moriyasu, Scott Jamieson, Joe Niutta (Gear Steward)

Middle row: Craig Duncan (Head of Human Performance), Jamie Coyne, Bruno Cazarine, Ivan Necevski, Liam Reddy, Juho Makela, Michael Beauchamp, Stan Ivancic (physiotherapist)

Front row: Terry Antonis, Brett Emerton (VC) Terry McFlynn (Capt), Ian Crook (Assistant Coach), Vitezslav Lavicka (Head Coach), Steve Corica (Assistant Coach), Karol Kisel (VC), Nick Carle, Mark Bridge.

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ADRIAN LEIJER

Melbourne Victory FC



FULL NAME: Adrian Leijer
BIRTHPLACE: Dubbo, NSW
BIRTH DATE: 25/03/1986
HEIGHT: 186cm
WEIGHT: 84kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Hyundai IX35
NICKNAME: Ado
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Geelong W.V.S.A, VIS, Melbourne Knights, Melbourne Victory, Fulham FC, Norwich City FC
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Aus U/17, U/20, U/23, Socceroos
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: U/20 A-League Player of the Year (2007), Players Player MVFC (2006), Clubman of the Year MVFC (2006)
TEAM HONOURS: A-League Premiers/Champions 2007
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Harry Kewell
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Wayne Rooney
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Archie Thompson
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Kevin Muscat
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Robbie Kruse
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: 2007 A-League Grand Final
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia v Iran (Melb) WCQ 1997
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Grand Final 2010
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing soccer in my brother's team in Dubbo
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Plenty on You Tube!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the 2010 A-League Grand Final
WORST INJURY: Knee Tendonitis (2 years)
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They're all hard!
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Hindmarsh Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Left boot goes on first
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Breakfast: Weet-Bix & banana - Lunch: Pasta - Pre Match: Toast, banana & honey
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Defending
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Attacking
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Like all sports, AFL (Geelong), Rugby League (Storm), Rugby Union (Qld Reds), Formula One, Surfing
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Michael Jordan
FAVOURITE FOODS: Sunday Roast Dinner
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Mark Wahlberg
HOBBIES: Surfing, Golf, Relaxing
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Castaway Island, Fiji
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Boutique
IDEAL DATE: My girlfriend
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Fox Sports News
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Anything Leigh Broxham mixes
FAVOURITE FILM: Inception
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Melbourne Victory
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Unsure!
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Parents
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Away trips
HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME: Concentrating on Youth and grassroots
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Have fun and work hard!
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To be the best I can, and win another championship with MVFC
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: Michael Jordan
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: A very competitive year!

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Franjic puts his best foot forward

Petar Franjic who was born on the 7th of April 1992, in Melbourne is a Central Defender for A-League side Melbourne Victory. Petar was born to Croatian parents and grew up watching the Melbourne Knights during the NSL days.

Petar has known current Victory coach Mehmet Durakovic since his VIS days where Mehmet was part of the coaching team, and after some vital game time with boyhood club Melbourne Knights in the Victorian Premier League (VPL) he was signed to the Melbourne Victory Youth team.

Petar joined Melbourne Victory for the 2009-10 National Youth League (NYL) season and after some impressive performances in the NYL he signed his first professional contract in May 2010. Petar made his A-League debut at the Sydney Football Stadium against Sydney FC in January 2011.

He went onto to make 5 appearances in the 2010-11 A-League season and is hoping he can build on that this season. Those 5 games included a game against Adelaide United at Adelaide Oval when Kevin Muscat was suspended. This season he already played a part in keeping a clean sheet against Melbourne Heart in The Melbourne Derby when Adrian Leijer was suspended. He was one of the better players on the pitch for Victory.

Petar is tall and reads the ball well and considers his distribution one of his strengths. Possibly Victory already have a readymade replacement for retired Central Defender Kevin Muscat. With Muscat, Roddy Vargas and Adrian Leijer are at the club to guide him into the star that he could be.

Petar has a strong work ethic and believes it is really important to give one hundred percent if you want to be a good Footballer.

Petar has been capped 16 times for the Australian Under 17s National Team and 6 times for the Under 20s. Petar was also called up to the 2011 Under 20 World Cup in Colombia. Although he didn't get any game time he still learnt and enjoyed the experience. Much like follow Victory defender Nick Ansell who suffered the same at the 2011 Under 17s World Cup in Mexico.

I sat down with Petar to talk Football, Melbourne Victory, National Team Football and his A-League experiences.

Earliest Football Memory:

Not too sure to be honest. Maybe watching Melbourne Knights in the NSL when I was younger.

Football idols:

Zvonimir Boban

Goal in Football career:

To reach the highest level I possibly can and become a regular player for Melbourne Victory.

What made you want to play Football?

I dunno to be honest. Since I was young I always played Soccer with my two brothers and followed it on TV a lot and yeah that is how I started.

Which club do you wish to play for?

Right now I would be happy to become a starting player with Melbourne Victory but one day I might go overseas or what not. I dunno; any of the leading clubs in Europe would be good.

There isn't one club that you support?

No one specific to be honest. I wouldn't put it down to one club that I go for but I enjoy watching Barcelona.



What are your strengths?
Reading the game and distribution

What are your weaknesses?
More experience and yeah I dunno. Keep it at that.

How well do you think you did for Melbourne Victory in the Melbourne Derby a couple weeks ago?
Not too bad. It's always good to come in and to play but it was good because we kept a clean sheet in the end and we defenders with a lot pressure. Yeah, not too bad.

Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?
Not really, I just come everyday to training with the attitude to work as hard as possible with all the other players and coach and just try and give one hundred percent.

Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?
To be honest, not really.

Do you feel pressure to perform?
Just as much pressure as anyone

else. You have your own expectations as a player and you always want to do the best that you can. I think there is no added pressure, bar myself.

Your nickname is "The General". Can you please explain how you got that nickname?
To be honest I can't really explain it. Broxy (Leigh Broxham) actually gave me the nickname and I think it kind of stuck from there. You probably have to ask him how it happened or the players who gave the name.

Are you currently happy at your club Melbourne Victory?
Yeah definitely. It's just four rounds into the season and hopefully we push on and be successful. Definitely happy to be involved in the first team and club.

What have you learn from your experiences in the A-League?
To take every chance you get and take nothing for granted and also when coming to training to give one hundred percent. That way you can be prepared and have belief in yourself so when you do get the chance you take it.

Last season you only made 5 appearances. Were you happy with that game time or disappointed?
I was happy; it was the first season for me. It was good to get a couple games at the end of the season for a younger player like myself to get 5 games at the end of the season. Hopefully I can build on that this season.

You had the opportunity to play some game for the Youth team last season and the VTC in the VPL. You must be pleased to get some more game time?
Yeah was just for keeping me in it every week and keeping me as fit as much as possible as I can.

What are your hopes for this A-League season?
Probably just to get as many games as I possibly can and to work as hard as I can in training as much as I can be ready when I get the chance to take it.

Mehmet Durakovic is the new coach now for the senior team at Melbourne Victory. Since you played under him in the youth team you must be pleased with his appointment?

Yeah, I've known Mehmet as a coach for a couple of years since I was at the VIS; he was part of the coaching staff down there. So I've known him for a quite a while. It's good for him to get an opportunity to work with the first team. He also has promoted a few young players because he is a fan of young players. Hopefully he will take the opportunity and we will keep learning in training.

This season you most likely are to be involved with the Youth team. What is new coach Darren Davies like?
Yeah, good coach. He has worked in youth team before and has good knowledge and puts on good training sessions for the young boys and good vision and it is good to be coached by a good coach if you want to be a better player.

You are currently back-up to Captain Adrian Leijer and Roddy Vargas. They must be a great influence on a young Defender like you?
Yeah they are both very consistent players. I have a lot to learn everyday at training from the two of them and also we have Kevin Muscat as well who was a Centre-Back when he

played. They all have a vast amount of experience to learn from everyday so it's great to be around them.

What do you think your chances are of breaking into the first team and getting a regular A-League gig?
I think for the time being if I keep getting games here and there through injury or suspension then eventually I can keep building up and maybe in the next season or so I can get a regular run.

You came on against Celtic in a pre-season friendly in July. What can you tell us about your experience against the Scottish giants?
It was a great game to be involved in. The biggest club in years coming down and the big game players as well and a great atmosphere at AAMI Park. In the end of the day it was a good experience to be involved in and there wasn't much pressure because it was a friendly game but it was good to part of it.

During the Asian Champions League you got some vital game time. It must be a privilege to play in Asia's biggest club tournament?
I'm not too sure, I don't know.

At your time with Victory you have played in big games against Adelaide, Sydney and most recently Melbourne Heart. How do you think you have done in those big games?
The main thing is with a main position at the back is to be solid and be consistent as possibly as you can in games. Nothing unbelievable just contribute as a team and let the more accomplished players go out and win the games. I think overall if you can just help the team out and hopefully I will doing that in the future.

What do you think of the facilities at the Victory?
Yeah they are great. We are the biggest club in Australia. Week in week out whenever we are playing games it is something that helps out the players massively. So yeah it's good.

You have been capped 16 times for the Under 17 Australia National Team. You must be delighted to have the opportunity to gain national experience and represent your country?
Yeah it was a great experience and great opportunity to represent Australia. In the end of the day you take it with both hands. That is what you work hard for, to make opportunities. You also need to enjoy your Football.

You unfortunately couldn't get any game time at the 2011 Under 20 World Cup. What did you learn from your experiences in Colombia?
It was great experience and opportunity to go to an Under 20 World Cup. I didn't manage to get any minutes but I worked hard and there were some of the best up and coming players in world at the tournament and we learnt a lot for being there even though I didn't play but it was still a great experience to be there.

Would you consider playing for Croatia if you were given an opportunity?
Right now I haven't really thought about that. I am just really thinking about playing for Melbourne victory as much as I can. Since I have come through the youth national teams here I'd probably go for the National Team here, if possible.

Couch Potato Dept.



SBS ONE
Sunday November 6th
10:30 AM UEFA Europa League Highlights - All the highlights from the latest round of the UEFA Europa League.
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - Match highlights to be announced.
12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program - Highlights and news from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League.

Monday November 7th
04:30 PM FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday November 7th
9:30 PM The World Game

Friday 4 November
SBS ONE
6.45am (aedt) Europa League **LIVE** - Atletico Madrid v Udinese

Saturday 5 November
SBS TWO
7.00pm - Europa League Rubin Kazan v Tottenham Hotspur



Friday 4-Nov
Blue Square Premier Round 19 Mansfield v Cambridge 6:30am **LIVE**

Saturday 5-Nov
Bundesliga Round 12 Mainz v Stuttgart 9:00am 1st Airing

Sunday 6-Nov
Scottish Premier League Round 14 Kilmarnock v Inverness 1:55am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 12 Leverkusen v Hamburg 4:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 13 Lille v Evian 6:55am **LIVE**
Ligue 1 Round 13 Marseille v Nice 9:00am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 14 Teams TBC 11:10am **LIVE**
Scottish Premier League Round 14 Motherwell v Celtic 10:55pm LIVE

Monday 7-Nov
Bundesliga Round 12 Hannover v Schalke 1:25am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 12 Augsburg v Bayern Munich 3:25am LIVE
Ligue 1 Round 13 Bordeaux v PSG 6:15am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 14 Teams TBC 8:00am LIVE
Eredivisie Round 12 Utrecht v Ajax 10:15am 1st Airing

Tuesday 8-Nov
Eredivisie Round 12 AZ v Den Haag 5:00am 1st Airing

Wednesday 9-Nov
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 8:55am **LIVE**
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 11:45am **LIVE**

Thursday 10-Nov
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 8:55am **LIVE**
Copa Sudamericana Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Teams TBC 11:45am **LIVE**

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Alvaro Rodriguez's

NAME: Kazakhstan
CAPITAL: Astana
POPULATION: (2011 approx.) 16,600,000
CONFEDERATION: UEFA
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 129th

WHO ARE YA?

First up, the Republic of Kazakhstan IS a real country and not a creation of the fevered mind of Brit comic Sacha Baron Cohen :-). It is located in Central Asia, bordered by five other nations, and geographically is the biggest former Soviet republic after Russia herself. Dating back to the 5th Century AD, Kazakh culture and identity has been shaped as much by foreign incursions as by the passage of time - the country is a melting-pot of peoples and faiths. Islam and Orthodox Christianity, ethnic Russian/Ukrainians and 'native' Kazakhs along with emigres from neighbouring nations are the main components of this mix. The country's political history has been equally colourful - at times it has been a divided 'khanate', an outpost of Abbasid Muslim caliphs, part of Genghis Khan's Mongol empire and part of the old pre-revolutionary Russian Empire before being absorbed into Lenin's fledgling Soviet Union in 1920, which it remained a part of until the communist superpower's dissolution in 1991.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

As with all the Soviet republics, football is the national sporting obsession and so it was that newly-independent Kazakhstan took to the field following the end of the USSR, albeit initially as a member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The Kazakhs failed to qualify for their first international tournament, the 1996 Asian Cup held in the UAE and despite making it to the final qualification stage of France '98 (knocking out Iraq in the process, the aftermath of which was Uday Hussein's - son of Saddam - alleged imprisoning/torturing of Iraqi players involved in that defeat), finished last in their group (which saw South Ko-



The Kazakhs celebrate a rare win. Is nice!

rea qualify automatically and runner-up Japan qualify for a tie against Iran, which would in turn set the scene for the Socceroos' heartbreak at the MCG in November '97).

Kazakhstan cruelly missed out on 2000 Asian Cup qualification by a single point (losing out to Qatar), and in a karmic role-reversal the Iraqis exacted revenge by pipping the Kazakhs to the final group-stage of Korea-Japan 2002 WC qualifying on goal difference, having been deadlocked on 14 points. Despite the national team being overawed in Asian competition, this did not deter the Kazakh Football Federation from boldly applying for membership of UEFA in 2002. Their flimsy reasoning being that geographically the country could 'count' as being 'within Europe', the European confed nevertheless rubber-stamped their application and thus Kazakh football ventured into the new frontier of Europe. Debuting as UEFA members for the 2006 World Cup qualifiers (they had to sit out Euro 2004 due to missing the cut-off date), they finished dead-last in Group 2 (won by Andriy Shevchenko's Ukraine)boasting a mere draw and six goals to their name. They fared little better in Euro 2008 qualifying, although they gained 2 wins (one against Serbia) and 4 draws (of which 2 were against Belgium), and South Africa 2010 was again a bridge

Planet Football No.993 Kazakhstan



Just in case the GPS ain't working...



Boots 'N All: Kazakhstan fan favourite, Borat, gets ready for some beach soccer.

Moscow (current home of Socceroo Luke Wilkshire). Left-back Sergei Karimov meanwhile plies his trade for Bundesliga 2(German second division) side MSV Duisburg.

SO WHAT NOW?

With the Kazakhs having missed the boat for Euro 2012 after another disastrous campaign, time will tell if the country's economic success as a Central Asian leader can or will translate to its international footballing fortunes. More poignantly still, the question remains whether defecting from Asia to Europe in the first place was such a good idea after all...



HOT: The Victory wins at last, setting the scene for this do-or-die showdown against champs and league benchmark the Roar. More than a mere step-up from the Phoenix, yes, but if the two sides' Melbourne meeting last season is any guide, it's not gonna be a free pass for the Brisvegas boys. Come on Victory!

NOT: Mexican veteran Rafael Marquez's petulant antics in the MLS derby between LA Galaxy and his New York Red Bulls outfit that descended into a melee between the two sides. It's pathetic enough Marquez is currently playing for a team named after an energy drink without losing it to the point of throwing the football at Galaxy skipper Landon Donovan's back. Landon's European playing experience may pale in comparison to Rafael's decorated Barcelona career, but it doesn't even take a Sunday League player to work out which of the two is the truer professional.



Landon Donovan flies the flag for the Americans...

An Angel unfolds his football wings

Ange Postecoglou

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

Both as a player and a coach, Ange Postecoglou is a testament to the value of hard work and deep thought in achieving success. He was not lacking in ability or talent, but he has made far more of his qualities than many more naturally gifted performers. He played in South Melbourne's championships in 1984 and 1990-91 and coached the club to back-to-back titles in 1997-98 and 1998-99. He took South to the World Club championship in Brazil in 2000. Last year he coached Brisbane Roar to set a new standard for sustained high quality play and to win the A-League premiership losing only one game in the process. His career is far from over, but it is a good time to reflect on what he has already achieved.

Angelos Postecoglou was born in Greece on 27 August 1965 and came to Australia with his parents as a five year old. He started as a junior at South Melbourne and helped form a football team at his school where Australian Rules was supreme. Since he was the most experienced at 12 years old he got the coaching gig as well and eventually helped win the Victorian all-high school championship. He was selected for the Australian Institute of Sport and played in the National Youth League.

Len McKendry gave Ange his national league debut for South Melbourne Hellas as substitute for Alan Davidson after only 15 minutes of the game against Sydney City Hakoah on 15 April 1984. On 8 July he started for the first time against Green Gully. By the time the finals came round he was established enough to hold down a place in the grand final against Sydney Olympic which Hellas won by four-two over the two legs. He said in an interview that 'my contribution to the team was OK but it was far from significant'. South Melbourne's squad that year included Peter Laumets, Bobby Russell,

Steve Blair, John Yzendoorn, Alan Davidson, Oscar Crino, Carl Halford, Ken Murphy, Doug Brown, Charlie Egan, John Kanesoulis and Con Kiakos. So it was impressive that an 18-year-old was in the best eleven.

He represented Australia at Under-20 in the World Youth Cup in Russia in 1985. He got his first cap for Australia against Czechoslovakia in 1986 and played twice against New Zealand in 1988. By 1990 he was captain of South Melbourne and led the team to the championship that year, retiring to coach the club to two more titles. Thereafter he had a spell as coach of the national youth and Olympic teams and he had one season in Greece with Panachaiki. Some criticised him for results, but there is no doubt that he developed a large number of the players who went on to National League, A-League and senior Australian levels.

His self-control and wider perspective on the game of football are exemplary. In face of the most appalling provocation by Craig Foster he kept a level head and a clear expression of the issues during an interview on SBS which went viral on U-tube in November 2006. When the Channel 9, 3AW and the Herald-Sun were exaggerating crowd troubles after a Melbourne Victory versus Sydney FC match a month later, it was Ange who wrote a reasoned and careful response 'With only one team in town old ethnic tensions have disappeared, while the visually alarming use of flares has also [almost] become passé. Despite the stadium being packed on Friday night there were no obvious signs of trouble during the match though a fracas broke out after the final whistle and was brought under control before any real damage was done.'[1] <#_edn1> His appearances on the ABC's Offsiders are always well informed, thoughtful and wide ranging, with a clear strategic vision about the game and its future, as well as immaculate



Four products of the National Youth League. Paul Trimboli (on ground) Gary van Egmond, Tommy McCulloch (facing) and Ange Postecoglou (3). Photo. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

command of detail in areas where he specialises.

Ray Gatt has compared Ange to Wayne Bennett, the doyen of rugby league mentors, as coaching exemplars saying they both have the ability to get the very best out of their players. At South Melbourne and Brisbane, Postecoglou has shown that he can create and develop a system that is not dependent on particular players and he did something with the former which had never been done before—win back to back titles. South Melbourne was not disgraced at the World Club championship against Necaxa from Mexico, Vasco da Gama from Brazil and Manchester United.

Anyone interested in the way the game should be played should be at the Melbourne Victory versus Brisbane Roar match this weekend. One of the most important influences will not be on the pitch but in the Roar's technical area. Savour the work of a master while you can.



Ange Postecoglou and Robbie Markovac tussle for the ball. Photo. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



When was the last time nine Victorians played in the same team for Australia? 1987 Trans-Tasman Cup match in Bendigo. Rear row, left to right: Oscar Crino, Paul Wade, Gary van Egmond, Gary McDowall, Micky Petersen Front row: Alan Davidson, Warren Spink, Ange Postecoglou, Jeff Olver. Photo. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Qantas causes cancellation

By Daniel Quinn

Due to the Qantas strike Melbourne Victory were unable to fly to and from Canberra for Sunday's NYL clash.

The game has been postponed and has been re-scheduled to Wednesday 21 December 2011 at 3 pm. The Victory was not the only team affected by the flights but you will have to keep reading to find out whom else.

Sydney demolish Heart Melbourne Heart and John Aloisi have been dealt a huge blow after being thrashed 5-1 by Sydney at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday.

Confidence was high for Heart after defeating rivals Victory last week but they travelled to Sydney on the wrong end of a smashing. Mitchell Mallia scored a breathtaking hat-trick and included Shannon Cole and Hirofumi Moriyasu in their line-up.

Sydney opened the scoring only after 12 minutes after Captain Jared Lum converted a penalty after Joel Chianese was fouled in the box. Senior squad member Nick Kalmer had a chance to equalise but his shot just went wide. But it wouldn't be long before he did so after a magnificent chip from 20 metres out on 27 minutes. Sydney were back in front only 5 minutes later after Joel Chianese made a fantastic run down

the left before crossing to Mallia. 2-1 to the hosts at half-time.

Sydney looked the better team after the break and extended their lead yet again through the Chianese and Mallia combination on 65 minutes. But Heart weren't finished with Kalmer and Walker coming close.

On 81 minutes probably the best goal of the game came through debutant Caleb Rufer, the son of Wynton Rufer. He curled his attempt into the net from the edge of the box. But Nick Kalmer yet again for Heart proved that he was too strong for this level with a lobbed shot clipping the crossbar. But Mallia finished with the match ball after completing his hat-trick on 87 minutes. Melbourne Heart's misery continued when they were unable to fly home due to the Qantas strike. Instead they took a long train trip.

Nine-man Newcastle take the points Newcastle Jets have won their first game of the season after defeating Gold Coast United 3-2 at Owen Park on Saturday.

The Jets started the better side with Kyle Ewart opening the scoring after 4 minutes from an Andrew Hoole low cross. Only 3 minutes later it could have been two when Jacob Borg's mistake was not punished by Chris Payne. Newcastle wasted another chance on 11 minutes through Daniel Laiman.

But it was Captain Zac Anderson who levelled for the hosts on 16 minutes by heading home after a great cross by Daniel Bragg. It was Bragg yet again who this time put the hosts in front with a fantastic, curling free kick on 31 minutes. But Newcastle was level again only 5 minutes later through Chris Payne after some good, silky feet.

20 seconds into the second-half Newcastle were back in front to make 3-2 through David Talevski; yet another defensive mistake to blame for The Gold Coast. On 48 minutes Mario Simic collected his second yellow card to leave Newcastle down to 10 men. Gold Coast almost capitalised 7 minutes later through Chris Harold but his strike smashed off the woodwork. Chris Payne was also sent off late on for a second yellow for time wasting. So playing against 9-men United splurged on the pressure but Luke Turnbull in goal made sure they would leave Owen Park with three points.

Reds take chances Adelaide United have beaten Brisbane Roar 3-1 at Cleveland Showgrounds on Saturday.

Brisbane went into the tie with A-Leaguers Rocky Visconte and James Meyer but it was Adelaide who had the first chance on 15 minutes but Teeboy Kamara couldn't capitalise on a mistake. But 5 minutes later Kamara

had another chance after A-Leaguer Fabian Barbiero crossed for Kamara to open the scoring. Barbiero and Kamara yet again combined well but the Roar defence were composed.

On 30 minutes George Lambadaridis had a header saved brilliantly by Mark Birighitti in goal. 7 minutes later Nicholas Fitzgerald crossed fantastically for Matthew Thurtell to equalise for the hosts. Brisbane controlled most of the game and held possession but couldn't convert the possession into any chances. Matthew Thurtell could have doubled his scoring after he hit the post; a goal which would have changed the whole game. Despite Brisbane feeling confident Ricardo Da Silva gave Adelaide the lead with 10 minutes to go and Jake Monaco finished off the Roar on 86 minutes with a great right footed strike.

Glory comeback in thriller Perth Glory has beaten Central Coast Mariners 3-2 at Lisarow on Sunday after coming back from two goals down.

Perth included plenty of experience like last week with Steve Pantelidis, Steven McGarry, Joshua Risdon and Tommy Amphlett all starting. Central Coast started with Brad McDonald and Mustapha Amini.

A-Leaguer Brad McDonald opened the scoring on 28 minutes and probably

Results	
Sydney FC 5:1	Melbourne Heart
Gold Coast United 2:3	Newcastle Jets
Brisbane Roar FC 1:3	Adelaide United
CC Mariners 2:3	Perth Glory FC
Melbourne Victory v Bye	

should have wrapped it all up before half-time but only took a 1-0 lead into the second-half.

Early into the second-half on 54 minutes Mustapha Amini delightfully played through Mitchell Duke who finished to make it 2-0. The Mariners then decided to take it easy for the rest of the game and that ended up biting them in the behind.

On 60 minutes Brandon O'Neill's powerful low finish ensured the game wasn't over. 7 minutes later Tommy Amphlett equalised for the visitors and their pressure was rewards through Steven McGarry on 71 minutes. McGarry tapped-in after Dylan Mitchell in goal for the hosts spilled a cross; 3-2 to The Glory.

The Mariners woke up and with 12 minutes left to play Zachary Freeburn shot over from not too far out. On 81 minutes Kwabena Appiah-Kubi had an attempt cleared off the line after the Glory keeper was beaten. 3 minutes later Trent Sainsbury had a header saved then on the rebound Appiah-Kubi's header hit the post. Sainsbury with only a minute to play showed his aerial presence with another header but this time it went wide.

NYL Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Perth Glory FC	2 2 0 0 6 2 4 6
2 Adelaide United	2 1 1 0 4 2 2 4
3 Newcastle Jets FC	2 1 1 0 4 3 1 4
4 Sydney FC	2 1 1 0 6 2 4 4
5 Brisbane Roar FC	2 1 0 4 1 3 0 3
6 Melbourne Heart	2 1 0 1 3 5 -2 3
7 CC Mariners	2 0 1 1 3 4 -1 1
8 Gold Coast United	2 0 0 2 2 5 -3 0
9 Melbourne Victory	1 0 0 1 0 2 -2 0
10 AIS	1 0 0 1 0 3 -3 0

Next Round	
Wed 2 Nov 4:00pm	Newcastle Jets FC Vs Perth Glory FC Adamstown Oval, Newcastle
Sat 5 Nov 2:00pm	AIS Vs Gold Coast United FC AIS Athletics Track, Canberra
Sat 5 Nov 4:30pm	Adelaide United Vs Melbourne Heart Burton Park
Sat 5 Nov 6:00pm	Sydney FC Youth Vs Mariners Leichhardt Oval, Sydney
Sun 6 Nov 4:00pm	Melbourne Victory Vs Brisbane Roar Kingston Heath, Cheltenham
Mariners v Bye	

Victorian Champions League - Round 3 Wrap

Round Three of the Victorian Champions League took place over the weekend and was definitely the closest round of matches across most competitions we've seen so far.

In the Under 13 Boys, Southern Bluetongues, Loddon Mallee Lightning and South East Cougars kept their perfect records intact, making it three wins from three games. Southern defeated Wimmera 5-0, South East defeated Gippsland 5-0 and Loddon Mallee defeated Rivers 4-1. Western Wolves dropped their first match points of the season, drawing 1-1 with a tough Central City side. North East Diamond won their match against Northern All Stars 3-1 and North West Wanderers defeated Eastern FC 2-0.

Southern Bluetongues and Western Wolves both had big wins this week in the Under 13 Girls, defeating Wimmera South Coast Eagles 6-0 and Central City 6-1 respectively. This sets up a mouth watering encounter for Round Four when Southern will face off against Western. North East Diamonds and North West Wanderers continued on their winning ways, defeating Northern 3-0 and Eastern 2-0 respectively. Rivers defeated Loddon Mallee 2-0 while two first half goals to South East saw them defeat Gippsland 2-1.

North-West Wanderers had the only win in the Under 14 Boys competition, defeating Eastern FC in a thrilling 5-2 encounter. Wimmera South Coast Eagles secured their first competition point of the campaign, with a 1-1 draw with Southern Bluetongues. National Youth Championship All Star Seb Pasquali was on the score sheet for Rivers FC in their 2-2 draw with Loddon Mallee Lightning. Northern All Stars and North East Diamonds drew 1-1, while both keepers were on their toes in the 0-0 match between Central City and Western Wolves.

The Under 15 Girls competition saw some high scores, with North West defeating Eastern 7-0, Western defeating Central 6-0, Loddon Mallee defeating Rivers 6-0 and South East defeating Gippsland 5-0. In closer matches, North East beat Northern 2-1 and Southern overcame Wimmera in a thrilling 3-2 encounter.

In contrast to the girls, the Under 15 Boys was a very tight affair. Apart from Western's big 5-1 win over Central, all matches were nail-bitingly close. Riley Hamilton was the hero for Rivers, scoring in their 1-0 win over Loddon Mallee. Southern and Wimmera drew 1-1 as did Eastern and North West. Gippsland defeated South East 1-0 while North East edged past Northern 2-1.

Loddon Mallee Lightning and North East Diamonds continued to set the pace in the Under 17 Girls, with North East defeating Northern 5-0 and Loddon Mallee running away 8-0 winners over Rivers. Something will have to give next week, when the two sides will face off against each other with their perfect records at stake. North West Wanderers enjoyed a 3-0 win over Eastern while Central City drew 3-3 with Western Wolves, Gippsland Knights drew 2-2 with South East Cougars and Southern Bluetongues drew 1-1 with Wimmera South Coast Eagles.

All eyes were on league leaders Western Wolves and Central City in the Under 17 Boys as they faced off this week with top spot at stake. After 90 minutes of scintillating football, the final score read 1-1. The always dangerous Southern Bluetongues were overturned 3-2 by a determined Wimmera South Coast Eagles side and Gippsland had a hard fought 3-1 victory over South East Cougars. Eastern FC kept in touch with the leaders with a convincing 5-0 win over North West Wanderers, North East Diamonds secured their first competition points of the season with a 6-1 win over Northern All Stars and Rivers FC and Loddon Mallee Lightning drew 1-1.



Girls U-17 ... An anxious moment for the Central City keeper Natalie Battiato as Aliesha Newman (Westen Wolves) forward gets the ball past her
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Girls U-17 ... Stephanie Magro (Western Wolves) lobs the ball forward as Elif Yilmaz (Central City) movies in to challenge. Gerty Daly Buick follows the action.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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Heyman hat-trick gives Canberra the glory

By Ann Odong

A Michelle Heyman hat-trick has seen Canberra United remain top of the Westfield W-League with a 3 – 2 home win over Perth Glory. Meanwhile a Lisa De Vanna inspired Newcastle Jets gained their first 3 points with a 3 – 0 victory over Adelaide United and Megan Rapinoe finished off her W-League cameo with a goal in Sydney FC's 2 – 1 defeat of Melbourne Victory.

Canberra United 3 – 2 Perth Glory

Canberra United came from behind to defeat a gallant Perth Glory 3 – 2 thanks to a hat-trick from their star striker Michelle Heyman. Despite conceding possession to the home side, Perth Glory etched out the first chance of the match when Elisa D'Ovidio's strike forced a good save from Matildas' goalkeeper Lydia Williams.

The early scare woke up United and the home side went on the attack. First Heyman beat out Perth goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold to a loose ball out wide but the subsequent cross took a deflection before grazing the cross bar. Not long after Ashleigh Sykes squandered another opportunity when she shot straight at Arnold after being played into space.

Canberra were punished for their inaccuracy on 20 minutes when New Zealand international Emma Kete took advantage of a defensive blunder from Caitlin Cooper with the Glory forward finishing calmly into the right corner. Despite their best efforts the home side were unable to equalise before half time with Perth taking a 1 – 0 lead at the break.

Canberra started the second half like they ended the first full of attack and in the 64th minute were finally rewarded for their persistence. Again a defensive error allowed for a small opening as Perth defender Carys Hawkins misjudged the bounce of the ball which saw Heyman step in and convert despite Arnold getting hands on the ball. Not long after they had their second when Taryn Hemmings' cross picked out Heyman with the striker finishing clinically. In control on the park and the scoreboard, Canberra looked to kill off the game and on 80 minutes Munoz's cleared shot fell into the path of Heyman who tapped in for a fine hat-trick. With just over a minute in normal time remaining, midfielder Marianna Tabain's half volley saw Perth remain alive but Canberra were able to hold on maintain their perfect start to the season.

Newcastle Jets 3 – 0 Adelaide United

New Newcastle Jets' striker Lisa De Vanna's two goals have helped the club to an impressive 3 – 0 win over Adelaide United at Adamstown Oval. It was a match they were expected to win comfortably and, in front of a Jets' Westfield W-League home crowd record of close to 1,000 fans, the home side got off to the perfect start in the fifth minute. De Vanna's pace created the chance as she bolted into space on the left wing before finding midfielder Linda O'Neill with the youngster emphatically finishing.

Although jumped early, Adelaide settled into the match with Ashleigh Gunning firing just over the head Jets' goalkeeper Melissa Barbieri from distance. Newcastle went close to doubling their lead on 30 minutes when Nicola Bolger hit the post and then De Vanna saw her close range attempt palmed away by Reds' goalkeeper Kristi Harvey to keep the half time deficit to one goal.

Adelaide were again jumped in the second half as two minutes after the restart, a long



Caitlin Foord, Megan Rapinoe and Heather Garriock celebrate the winning goal in Sydney FC's 2-1 win over Melbourne Victory. Photo: ANN ODONG



Lisa Devanna scored twice for the Jets. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Victory's Jodie Taylor lines up to take her penalty kick against SFC. Photo: ANN ODONG

ball from Hannah Brewer put De Vanna through. This time the striker made no mistake as she struck home past an advancing Harvey. 20 minutes later she rounded off a complete performance with her second. This time neat lead up work from substitute Rhali Dobson and Tara Andrews, was finished off expertly by De Vanna from the edge of the area for 3 – 0 lead.

To their credit, the visitors looked to play their way back into the match with striker Marijana Rajcic going close on minutes and substitute Georgia Macri went closer still as she hit the post after a 20 metre strike. Adelaide were reduced to 10 players late in the match when Ebbs was shown her second

yellow for an overly strong tackle on O'Neill. The Jets finished strongly with only Harvey stopping the scoreline from blowing out as she smartly saved from Dobson, De Vanna and O'Neill at close range.

Sydney FC 2 – 1 Melbourne Victory

In at times feisty encounter, US import Megan Rapinoe has finished her W-League stint with a match winning goal as she steered Sydney FC to a 2 – 1 win over Melbourne Victory at Leichhardt Oval. Melbourne entered the match hoping to overturn their crushing 5 – 1 loss to Sydney in last season's semi-final.

However in the first 20 minutes it appeared

as it would be business as usual for the Sky Blues. Inside 10 minutes, Sydney had the lead. After earning a corner, Rapinoe played a short pass to Rollason who eventually found Kylie Ledbrook on the edge of the area with the midfielder curling her shot home.

Pulling the strings, Rapinoe next tried an ambitious lob from a free-kick as she witnessed Victory goalkeeper Brianna Davey off her line with the ball missing by inches. Continuing in her quest for a first Australian goal, the midfielder got closer still when she rattled the cross bar with a stunning 25 yard free kick. Having survived the onslaught, the visitors played their way into the match

and captain Jodie Taylor found space twice only to be denied by some quick defensive actions. Rapinoe countered with her powerful header drifting just inches wide of the post.

Only 1 – 0 down at the break, Melbourne came out a more focused and intense team in the second half and began to gain the ascendancy. Taylor went close to equalizing after a defence splitting pass but her first touch took her past Sydney goalkeeper Allison Lipsher and the touchline. Victory midfielder Amy Jackson, Louisa Bisby and winger Ashley Brown began to get on top and it wasn't long before Melbourne were even. Just past the hour mark, Rapinoe

Results	
Canberra 3 (Heyman 64, 66, 80)	
Perth 2 (Kete 21, Tabain 89)	
Newcastle Jets 3 (O'Neill 5, De Vanna 47, 68)	
Adelaide United 0	
Sydney FC 2 (Ledbrook 9, Rapinoe 83)	
Melbourne Victory 1 (Taylor 63p)	

Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Canberra United FC	2 2 0 0 7 3 4 6
2 Sydney FC	2 1 1 0 3 2 1 4
3 Newcastle Jets FC	1 1 0 0 3 0 3 3
4 Melbourne Victory	2 1 0 1 3 4 -1 3
5 Brisbane Roar	1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1
6 Perth Glory FC	2 0 0 2 2 5 -3 0
7 Adelaide United FC	2 0 0 2 1 7 -6 0

Next Round	
Sat 5 Nov 12:00pm	
Perth Glory FC Vs Adelaide United FC	nib Stadium
Sat 5 Nov 3:00pm	
Sydney FC Vs Canberra United FC	Leichhardt Oval, Sydney
Sat 5 Nov 4:00pm	
Brisbane Roar Vs Newcastle Jets FC	Cleveland Showgrounds, Cleveland
Melbourne Victory Vs Bye	



Melissa Barbieri in Jets colours. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

brought down Caitlin Friend in the penalty area, and Taylor comfortably converting the resultant spot kick.

All even, the match then looked like erupting with several players on both sides booked as tempers flared on a warm Sydney afternoon. Despite one or two chances going begging for Melbourne, Sydney and in particular Rapinoe were not to be denied as she determinedly latched onto a low cross to turn it home past Davey. The last play of the match saw Taylor again break free only for her to squander the chance and shot wide with only Lipsher to beat.



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CHILEAN CLÁSICO CRACKER AND BOCA RUNS WITH LEADERSHIP

Latin
Wrap

Francis Fields

Chilean Clausura

It was a packed to capacity Monumental stadium early Monday morning with the latest Chilean football derby between hosts Colo-Colo and the visiting team, league leaders Universidad de Chile.

A late 12th minute injury time equaliser courtesy of an own-goal from Paraguayan midfielder Osmar Molinas was the final play of the match that locked both sides 2-2.

The defeating 40,000 crowd saw a very battled, gruelling match between the two fierce archrivals. Universidad de Chile, undefeated yet still carries a 10-year long burden of not winning a match away at the Monumental stadium.

Referee Claudio Puga pulled out several yellow and a few red cards in the match for indiscipline.

Barely four minutes into the match, a penalty was awarded to Universidad de Chile after an alleged foul from Colo-Colo defender Christian Vilches on youngster Eduardo Vargas.

Universidad de Chile was 1-0 up from the resulting spot-kick courtesy of midfielder Charles Aránguiz.

Later in the first half, the penalty goalscorer received his marching orders from a vicious two-footed tackle while defender Osvaldo González also got his early shower from a tackle from behind on Roberto Gutiérrez and a handball that resulted in a penalty for the home side.

Colo-Colo favourite Esteban Paredes scored from the spot kick and headed in the 2-1 for the home side, climbing from the one-goal deficit.

By far, Paredes was the most efficient finisher for Colo-Colo and Argentine midfielder Lucas Wilchez played a solid performance.

The numerical advantage however was the price to pay for the popular side as they lacked finishing. Goalkeeper, Uruguayan Juan Castillo got his second bookable offence, a red card for arguing to the referee and his side went down to ten.

Substitute Raúl Olivares came on for the forward Roberto Gutiérrez off and the second goalkeeper made some vital saves along with receiving a horrible stomp on the face from Universidad de Chile defender Albert Acevedo that did not get penalised.

Colo-Colo kept piling yet another counter-attack but the match surpassed the normal 90 minutes of regulation time due to the many incidents in the match and some crowd trouble.

When the clock hit 12 minutes of time added on, the worst was to come for the home side. A hopeful cross landed into the area leaving the midfielder



Plenty of drama at the Monumental in Santiago as league leaders Universidad de Chile grabbed a 102nd minute equaliser with an own-goal to fierce enemies Colo-Colo.



Quarter final first leg action in Lima as Peruvian giants Universitario opened their account against their Brazilian counterpart, Vasco da Gama in the Copa Sudamericana.

Molinas with an attempted clearance header that resulted in an own-goal striking the left post leaving Olivares and the crowd stunned.

That was the resulting 2-2 draw on 112 minutes of play leaving euphoric celebrations for the league leaders, especially for coach Jorge Sampaoli, celebrating like a fan in jubilation. Universidad de Chile maintain their undefeated record in the Clausura or closing championship with 43 points while Colo-Colo sit second in the table with 26.

Home side Colo-Colo are also facing investigation due to incidents after the match that marred the occasion in the dressing rooms with reports of players and fans, members of the "Garra Blanca" group clashing and attempting to assault Universidad de Chile players. Argentinian Apertura

Seventeen minutes is all it took for Boca Juniors to go nine points clear in the Apertura or opening championship in Argentina after seeing off second-placed Atlético Rafaela 3-1. Today's match was expected to be a stern test as Julio César Falcioni's men had to battle at their home ground, the La Bombonera stadium.

The game went under control inside 17 minutes thanks to a brace from Nicolás Blandi. Having also scored a brace last week away to Colón de Santa Fé has proven to be a significant value to the squad's forwards.

Cristián Chávez then capped things off, before Alexis Castro's late consolation for Rafaela. The visitor did mysteriously get a second goal disallowed for offside and that would have closed up the deficit but it was Boca with the three points.

Meanwhile, Colon de Santa Fe are now a point behind Atlético Rafaela after their 1-0 win at Belgrano in Córdoba, courtesy of an Esteban Fuertes' 80th-minute penalty for the Colón club legend and veteran forward.

Lanús are fifth after a 2-1 win over Godoy Cruz.

Paolo Goltz put them ahead and, after Guido Pizarro put through his own net, Mario Regueiro won it with nine minutes left.

Lanús' victory however was overshadowed by the appalling behaviour

of former World Cup winning Italy midfielder Mauro Camoranesi stomping Godoy Cruz midfielder Patricio Toranzo on the face. It was a shocking act and one that must be condoned.

COPA SUDAMERICANA

Thursday saw Peruvian giants Universitario down Brazilian league leaders Vasco da Gama in Lima 2-0 in their first leg quarter final tie.

The Peruvians overcame the inferiority complex against Brazilian sides and made their home presence felt, the giant and colossal Monumental stadium, located in the suburb of Ate on the outskirts of the capital city.

It was a glorious night overshadowing a difficult year for the club and remains unbeaten in its past ten matches in all international competition.

Raúl Ruidíaz struck with a penalty on 35 minutes to open the scoring. The tight match only showed why visitors Vasco lead in the long Brazilian championship with midfield play maker Juninho Pernambucano - formerly with French side Lyon was absent and it noticed.

Universitario however are a close-knit unit and have defied all odds to continue charging in the Sudamericana. Facing debt issues financially and performing poorly into the start of the domestic season, the hardship at the club has been by all means an upward battle for the "cremas".

The cream-coloured giants are now a match away from reaching the semi-finals with the comfortable two-goal cushion and are out to create history, re-writing the record books.

Johan Fano on 58 minutes in the second half secured the scoreline in front of raptures of its passionate home fans. Last season's best player in the Mexican league and top scorer has been instrumental alongside play maker, Argentine Pablo Vitti up front and look confident the side can extend their lead with a positive result next week on the 9th of November at the Sao Januario in Rio de Janeiro.

Vélez grabbed crucial equaliser away in Colombia

A late goal from David Ramírez earned Argentina's Vélez Sarsfield a 1-1 draw at Santa Fe in the first leg of

their Copa Sudamericana quarter-final on Wednesday.

The midfielder struck a quarter of an hour from the end at El Campín in Bogotá as the Argentine champions took a vital step towards reaching the last four of the tournament.

Vélez Sarsfield went close to finding a winner towards the end, but would have been pleased to take a draw from their away leg in Colombia.

Veteran Colombian midfielder Gerardo Bedoya had given Santa Fe a 24th-minute lead when he struck with a crafty free-kick.

Ramírez however equalised in the second half before 35-year-old Bedoya was sent off six minutes from time when he picked up a second yellow card, and his side hung on for a draw despite some late pressure from Vélez Sarsfield.

Santa Fe will travel to Buenos Aires to the intimidating José Amalfitani stadium in the Liniers suburb for the second leg next week on November 10.

Brazilian championship

According to agent Roberto Tadeu, Palmeiras coach Luiz Felipe Scolari turned down the chance to sign Paraguayan international forward Roque Santa Cruz and Argentine Javier Saviola, who were both offered to the Paulista club.

Former Chelsea coach, Luiz Felipe Scolari is expected to re-shuffle his squad once the 2011 Brasileirão draws to a close. Palmeiras have gone seven games without a win in the league and are on high alert to improve their squad in time for next season.

Palmeiras' star striker Kléber is set to leave the club at the end of the season, following his fall out with Scolari and Roque Santa Cruz and Javier Saviola were offered to Scolari as replacements.

Agent Roberto Tadeu told LANCENET! that Saviola and Santa Cruz were available, but Scolari had no interest in either of the two players.

Santa Cruz is currently on loan to Spanish side Real Betis from Manchester City, whilst Saviola is playing for Portuguese giants Benfica.

Chilean play maker Jorge Valdivia has also been subject to criticism follow-

ing off-field dramas with his marriage however it has not affected his performance for Palmeiras.

The Italian-backed club are believed to be in a massive coup with talks over the possible signing of Argentine play maker Juan Roman Riquelme from Boca Juniors.

O Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper reports that although it will not be easy to convince Riquelme to part ways with his beloved Boca and leave Argentina, his wage demands will be little bother for Palmeiras who could also expect great sponsorship help to finance any deal.

Riquelme has recently turned down moves to both Europe and the Middle-East. However, given Palmeiras recent issues, there is no doubt a signing of this magnitude would do much to appease the restless fans at the Palestra Italia.

Meanwhile in the Brazilian championship, Vasco da Gama were held to a 0-0 draw with Sao Paulo. Its supporters were oozing in frustration at their team's loss of two points and they must have felt even worse when they heard the news from Sao Paulo that Corinthians had won 2-1 at home to Avai.

Corinthians is second on the table and the result meant that Vasco had surrendered top spot in the table with just 6 rounds to go. The two points dropped by Vasco, highlights the difficulty of the Brazilian Championship.

In the course of such a long campaign teams will inevitably suffer injuries and suspensions - as well as other distractions to continuity, such as loss of form or the changes wrought to the line up by the transfer window. Maintaining consistency is extremely difficult.

Colombia's very own Copa Postobón Elsewhere in news, Colombia's cup, the Copa Postobón was played out last week between arguably the country's most popular side Millonarios up against underdog achievers Boyacá Chicó.

The second leg was a thriller at the El Campín stadium in Bogotá as Mayer Candelo was the goalscorer in a narrow 1-0 win.

It left the aggregate score of 2-0 after the away win last week in Tunja.

It is the third title for Millonarios in the Copa Colombia Postobón in its history, a title won by fellow Bogotá clubs Independiente de Santa Fe and La Equidad.

Packed to 40,000 colourful fans in blue, cheering for their team capping off a triumphant night its fans had hoped to see, ending more than ten years without silverware.

With Millionarios a goal up from the first leg, the desperation from Boyacá Chicó's players was evident. They went out in search of an equaliser and to seek the possibility of gaining the upper hand in the second-leg tie.

It was not the case though despite the performances of Avimiled Rivas and Jhon Jairo Montañó (himself an ex-Millonarios player), who tried endlessly creating goal scoring chances.

Millonarios goalkeeper Nelson Ramos was having a solid night between the posts and showed why such a team can count on an experienced custodian.

Forward Erick Moreno had two clear opportunities but could not hit the target and with Millonarios dominating clearly in the second half.

With the introduction of substitute, Uruguayan José Luis Tancredi onto the field the Bogotá based side showed more attacking numbers. Mayer Candelo missed a penalty minutes later after a brilliant individual display from Édison Toloza and was brought down in the area.

Cristian Bonilla however in the Boyacá goal denied the penalty with a save. Five minutes later, Candelo was then to the rescue and the hero for Millonarios as the 34-year old creative midfielder scored giving the popular Bogotá club its first cup title since 1963.

For the record, Millonarios last won a Colombian league in 1988. The Colombian club giants however last won a title in 2001 with the now defunct international club tournament, the Copa Merconorte.

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A busy month yet again with most club competitions in full swing, a few outstanding Socceroos performances and some interesting player movements.

Club Level:-

England (Premier League) – a fairly average month for our Aussies with **Tim Cahill's** Everton continuing to slide down the table as Tim remains scoreless this campaign. He is joined in the bottom half of the table by a patchy Fulham where **Mark Schwarzer** remains first choice keeper, and a struggling Blackburn that is still missing the injured **Vinnie Grella**. The standout has been the starting appearances of **Chris Herd** at Aston Villa over the latter part of the month. After having a dodgy red card rescinded on appeal, hoping he can now string together a few games.

England (Championship) – our Aussies at Middlesbrough find themselves well placed at third with **Rhys Williams** and **Scott McDonald** cemented in the starting line-up. A strong month by **Mile Jedinak's** Crystal Palace has seen them move into the playoff positions as well. Leeds have been inconsistent, with **Paddy Kisnorbo** in and out of the starting lineup. Despite winning constant praise at Reading, **Adam Federici's** team are not getting much needed wins. With Bristol City really struggling, **Neil Kilkenny** could be in for a long season.

England (League One) – the boys at Oldham (**Cisak** and **Wesolowski**) have been starting every game as their side slowly move up the table. James nailing a brace in the recent fixture away to Preston North End. **Aaron Downes** is currently starting for a Chesterfield side that sits in the relegation places.

Italy (Serie B) – **Carl Valeri** has played every minute in every game he has started this campaign, so reasonable to suggest he has been instrumental in Sassuolo now sitting a point shy of automatic promotion.

Italy (Serie C2) – two young Aussies continue to make great progress and start each week. **Francesco Stella** (Borgo a Buggiano) is yet to break his scoring duck, while **Christian Esposito** (FC Catanzaro) scored twice during October.

Germany (Bundesliga) – **Nikita Rukavytsya** has just returned to the starting lineup after scoring in a cup tie. Hertha Berlin are having a reasonable season after winning promotion, and currently sit 10th. **Mitch Langerak** continues to receive high praise from management at Dortmund as he sits on the pine for the first team. He did start a cup tie late in the month and kept a clean sheet.



Jade North

Germany (2. Bundesliga) – a solid month sees Fortuna Dusseldorf top of the table with **Robbie Kruse** back in the starting eleven.

Netherlands (Eredivisie) – **Brett Holman** has been leading the charge as AZ currently top the table in Holland, although he is currently out injured. The boys at Utrecht have had a poor month after losing the past three games. Seems as though **Oar**, **Sarota** and **Zullo** are rotating through the team, with Zullo and Oar seeing a similar number of starts this season.

Scotland (Premier) – not much to get excited about from an Aussie perspective. Although Rangers are three games clear of Celtic, **Matt McKay** has had nothing to do with that. A similar story for **Ryan McGowan** at Hearts, they are currently fifth after dropping the past two games, with Ryan seeing limited minutes.

Scotland (Second division) – **Beau Busch** (Arbroath) and **Matthew Park** (East Fife) both start every week as their respective sides are currently in the playoff positions.

Greece (Super League) – the season is up and running at the top level but the lower leagues are yet to kick off. Both **Nathan Burns** (AEK) and **Apostolis Giannou** (PAOK) are seeing limited time off the bench. Their teams are sitting fourth and fifth on the table.

Turkey (Super Lig) – **James Troisi** (Kayserispor) had an interesting month, collecting 7 out of 9 points at one stage, only to lose the next two games. James is in and out of the starting eleven at the moment.

Croatia (1. HNL) – Hajduk Split now sit seven points adrift of Dinamo Zagreb, with young midfielder **Steve Lustica** having made more starts than the often injured **Ljubo Milicevic**. Another youngest making an impact is **Tomi Juric**. He has made 5 appearances off the bench, and with those 69



Luke Wilkshire

minutes has managed to score twice. Lokomotiva are just clear of the relegation places at the moment.

Portugal (Liga de Honra) – the stand out season continues for **Caleb Patterson-Sewell**. Now after 8 starts in 8 games, Atletico remain top of the league and have conceded only 3 goals (none in October) with Caleb in goal.

Russia (Premier League) – a mixed month for Dinamo Moscow, now third in Russia, with **Luke Wilkshire** approaching 2300 minutes in his 26 starts. Last fixture is next weekend.

Serbia (Super Liga) – a poor run of results has seen **Aleksander Jovanovic's** Hajduk Kula slip to mid table. However he has played every minute since making his debut back in September.

Switzerland (Super League) – four consecutive wins has seen Basel return to top of the league. **Scott Chipperfield** has had minimal impact though, making just two appearances from the bench so far this season.

Denmark (Superliga) – both Sonderjyske and Brondby have slipped down the table. **Nathan Coe** is starting every game while **Brent McGrath** has been coming off the bench.

Czech Republic – not a particularly great month for Mlada Boleslav (5th) or young striker Kerem Bulut who made just two starts.

Cyprus (1. Division) – although racking up good minutes, **Danny Invincible's** team sit bottom of the league, and the goal tally for the attacking midfielder is currently sitting at zero.

Hungary (NB III) – worth noting that GISS products, **Marko Banic**, **Jack Turner** and **Oscar Brooks** have all made their season debuts for Kaposvari Rakocsi II.



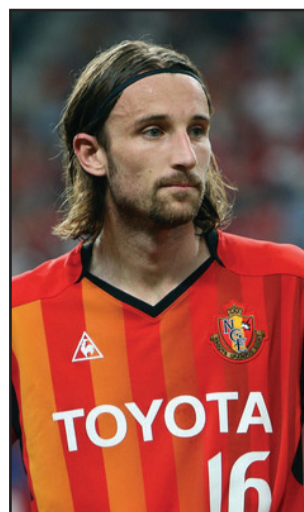
Tyson Homes

China (Super League) – plenty of Aussies seeing game time as the season concludes, last games this week. None more so than Beijing Guoan striker **Joel Griffiths** who moved to double figure goals for the campaign as his side currently sit second on the table. A good run by **Dean Hefferman's** Liaoning Hongyun sees them third and looking like qualifying for the Asian Champions League, with Dean chalking up 20 starts and nearly 2000 minutes for the season. A goal in the latest fixture for **Dino Djubic** as his team sits mid table after his 25 appearances. Unfortunately Chengdu Blades look like being relegated again, but **Jonas Salley** (25 appearances) and **Brendon Santalab** (a goal average of 1 every 2 games) have had decent campaigns.

Japan (J League) – a tight battle for **Josh Kennedy** on several fronts with Nagoya Grampus three points off the league lead with four games to go, and tied for first in the race for a second successive Golden Boot. A much quieter month for **Alex Brosque** as Shimizu S-Pulse dropped off the pace, coinciding with his absence on Socceroos duty. **Eddy Bosnar** is up to 28 starts for the campaign! **Matt Spiranovic** also missed some domestic football due to national commitments as Urawa slipped into a relegation battle. To make matters worse, they lost the League Cup final in extra time.

Japan (J2 League) – **Mark Milligan** continues in defence for JEF United. A total of one point from their past six games means that promotion is now beyond them. Tokyo (**Jade North**) are now four points clear at the top of the table. For 70 minutes game time this campaign, could be the easiest bit of silverware Jade ever collects.

Korea (K League) – the regular season has now concluded with all of our Aussies finishing outside of the play-offs except **Iain Fyfe** (Busan I'Park). **Cornthwaite** (17 starts), **Ognenovski** (23 starts) and **DeVere** (30 starts) all



Josh Kennedy

made good contributions during the season.

Singapore (S League) – a great month for Singapore Armed Forces (**Goran Subara**), winning the past four games, Goran starting those games and scoring once. Although near the bottom of the table, **Mark McGough** scored 4 goals for the month to move his team clear of relegation.

U.A.E. (UFL) – the season has just commenced in the "new" destination for Aussie footballers, with **Neill**, **Bresciano** and **Porta** all making their debuts.

Hong Kong (HKFA 1st) – our Aussies are getting great minutes. Still early days so can't read too much into the table but **Karl Dodd** (TSW Pegasus), **Dane Milovanovic** (Sun Hei FC) and **Nenad Vekic** (Tuen Mun SA) are all starters. Vekic is yet to miss a minute of the season.

India (I-League) – the new season has just commenced with several Aussies now featuring each week.

Injuries:- Longer term injuries still rule out **Garcia** (knee), **Ireland** (thigh), **Tombides** (cancer treatment), **Mooy** (back), **Gulum** (knee) and **Uchino** (glandular fever), however training has now resumed for some of these players. A few recent problems have arisen with **Holman** (groin), **Milicevic** (back) and **Usai** (ankle) also on the sidelines. **Matthew Leckie** has just made his comeback from injury with the second team at Monchengladbach.

Club Competitions:-
Europe (UEFA Champions League) Only two Aussies remain in the group stages. **Scott Chipperfield** came off the bench for Basel, while **Mitchell Langerak** remained on the bench for Dortmund.
(UEFA Europa League) slightly more Aussies in this competition

with **Nathan Burns** (AEK) and **Mark Schwarzer** (Fulham) getting starts, while **James Holland** was an unused substitute in AZ's tie.

Asia

(AFC Champions League) No Aussies remain.

(AFC Cup) No Aussies remain.

Youth:- During the month, at the "NextGen Series", we saw **Massimo Luongo** (Tottenham) and **Jackson Irvine** (Celtic) get starts. **Reece Cairns** (Aston Villa) came off the bench while **Nick Feely** (Celtic) remained there. Some of the other younger players making good progress in youth teams are **Costa Andricopoulos** (Anorthosis), **Aryn Williams** (Burnley), **Alex Baird** (Newcastle), **Aden Luz** (Athletico Clube Portugal) and **Jon Stynes** (Kilmarnock).

National level :- A friendly against Malaysia (5-0) followed by a 3-0 win against Oman in a World Cup qualifier marked a great month for the Socceroos. **Kennedy** putting away 3 goals, **Brosque** on the score sheet, and caps to a few inexperienced players like **Federici** and **Zullo**. All up, a successful few games. Two more qualifiers to come in November, along with the AFC U19 championship that is being held in Malaysia.

Transfers :- A few more destinations, perhaps off the predominate football track, are now seeing Aussies arrive. The annual pilgrimage to NZ during the State League break in Australia has also commenced as that league starts their new season. Expect to see a little more movement in Greece and Indonesia as the domestic situation in those two markets becomes clearer.

Additions/changes to database:-
Sam Conway (1992) – transferred to FK Banik Most, Czech Republic
Apostolis Giannou (25 Jan 1990) – transferred to PAOK, Greece
Tyson Holmes (9 Nov 1987) – transferred to Team Wellington, New Zealand
Michael Matricciani (15 Mar 1986) – transferred to Chirag United, India
Richard Porta (1 Aug 1983) – transferred to Al Wasl, U.A.E.
George Slefendorfas (7 Jan 1983) – transferred to Canterbury United, New Zealand
Sebastian Usai (28 Feb 1990) – transferred to Blackburn, England

Removed from database:-
Ante Covic (13 Jun 1975) – transferred to Melbourne Victory
Jason Davidson (29 Jun 1991) – released by Pacos de Ferreira, uncontracted
Ante Drazina (23 Feb 1992) – released by Hertha Berlin, uncontracted
Josip Konyit (29 Apr 1992) – released by NK Dinamo Zagreb, uncontracted
Steve Pantelidis (17 Aug 1983) – transferred to Perth Glory

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Friday 4th October 2011



WHAT’S COME OVER NEWCASTLE UNITED?

LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

If you would have told me that come November I would be writing about the plight of Newcastle United, then I would have nodded and not been in the least bit surprised. The words ‘relegation trouble’ and ‘Alan Pardew sacked’ would have been at the forefront of my mind.

Many were predicting a season of struggle but now those same people (me included) have jumped off that bandwagon. Newcastle host Everton on Saturday in the early game and are firm favourites to pick up another three points and maintain their unbeaten start to the season. Such has been their blistering start to the season, you have to ask what’s come over Newcastle?

Buying the right players at the right price

Anyone who has played Football Manager would know that the simple formula to success (what I call the SAF formula) is to buy good players that fit the formation you wish to play. Alan Pardew plays a 4-4-2 and his signings of Yohan Cabaye (£5m from Lille) and Demba Ba (free) have played pivotal roles in their success. They have bought players who are cheap and fit in with the modest wage structure at the Magpies. Davide Santon, the ex-Inter left back, is in my opinion a superb signing as long as he can stay healthy. The effect of Hatem Ben Arfa’s restoration to health cant be underesti-

mated either and neither can the relatively light injury list.

If they do get injuries to Demba Ba (not out of the question given his history) and to Cabaye they will struggle for goals and creativity. Gabriel Obertan, signed fro Manchester United, looks out of his depth, even on Tyne-side. And though he played well in the win against Stoke, I remain to be convinced.

But how can a team that has spent next to nothing (by Premier League standards) be so successful?

Work Ethic

When you watch Newcastle what will hit home is that they have no outstanding players. Leon Best wouldn’t get into most Premier League sides and I’ve seen pensioners with a keener sense of awareness and turn of pace than the central defensive pairing of Steven Taylor and Fabricio Colocchini. The bottom line is, quite frankly, that Newcastle have any flair players, rather they have competent and practical players rather than flashy, self-indulgent ones. This is epitomised by Jonas Gutierrez.

mThis is a player who could easily have left the club when they were relegated. Instead he stuck around, gaining the respect of the fans, and is now a pivotal player on the wide left of midfield. However, the Argentine isn’t particularly skilful, doesn’t get many assists and does not score goals either. Having said that, he does work



Pardew in paradise: Newcastle Utd boss Alan Pardew keeps on making a mockery of the form guide, and alongside Manchester City his side remains the only side side not to taste defeat yet this season.

very hard and has bought into the team ethic. In fact, unlike many modern day wide players, (Theo Walcott, Aaron Lennon take note) Jonas seems to have it hard-wired into his brain that his job isn’t just to go forward - it’s to defend as well. Their defending starts from the front with the two strikers and the closing down continues throughout the team and lasts for 90 minutes. This has given them the best defence in the league and though the back four is about as quick as a computer from the 1980s, the team is thriving from hard work without being spectacular.

Fixtures

The fixture list has been really kind to them. They may have played Spurs and Arsenal, but both matches were at home, and against The Gunners they seemed content to play for a draw. However, its hard to know how good they are when many of the teams in the Premier League (such as Fulham, West Brom, Wolves, Blackburn, Bolton, etc) seem to have the sole ambition of just staying there. In effect, the form of

the Magpies shows that a few decent signings can elevate an average team above those mediocre ones.

But are Newcastle United the real deal? The game against a pesky Everton side is a good barometer. And after the home game against the Merseyside club, United play at Manchester City, at Old Trafford and home to Chelsea. Only after these three colossal fixtures will we really know if this Newcastle team is ready for the big time. If they come out of those fixtures with four points they’ll have done well. In the past Newcastle have been known for their inconsistency, but under Pardew they have become consistent to the point of being predictable, and that’s just how the fans like it.

HOW ABOUT SOME FOOTBALL PLEASE?

It seems that all London Calling is writing about these days are racism scandals. Hot on the heels of the news that Blackburn Rovers have banned all banners calling for the head of manager Steve Kean, London Calling won-

ders what’s next: banning a crowd from chanting anything that may offend anyone. This isn’t quite as dumb as it may sound. The PC crowd have infiltrated Stamford Bridge. Chelsea officials are apparently upset that their fans chanted about Anton Ferdinand at the away match with Genk on Tuesday.

A club spokesman said on Wednesday: “The chanting by a vocal minority was wholly inappropriate and Chelsea Football Club does not condone such behaviour. We will be working with the appropriate authorities to seek out those responsible.”

So now “inappropriate” chanting is enough to warrant a ban is it? You really couldn’t make this stuff up. The fans simply sung ‘Anton Ferdinand you know what you are’ and this has become a stick by which to beat Chelsea fans with. Fans have the right to chant, believe it or not, and sometimes they might chant things which are unpleasant and even downright offensive. But, as long as they are not libellous that is their right. Whilst I applaud the kick racism out of football campaign, Chelsea’s

reaction does strike me as knee-jerk, over-sensitive and downright counterproductive. What good will it do to ban loyal fans and on what grounds?

There were suggestions that the chant was racially motivated but how would you prove it? Surely there comes a time when people have to move on. The referee did not mention the chanting in his report but why would he? He’d have to know all about the Ferdinand situation an I assume most European referees are far too busy living their lives to care about what happens at English football grounds.

This comes hot on the heels of Robin van Persie denying he made a ‘Nazi salute’ when celebrating his hat-trick with the Arsenal fans.

“It has been brought to my attention of some ridiculous allegations concerning my celebration of one of my goals,” wrote Van Persie on his Twitter account. “It is totally ludicrous to suggest that my action of brushing my shoulder could be construed as anything else but a showing of joy and celebration...”

Its probably somewhere on YouTube so decide for yourselves. Certainly, don’t look at the still shots because they don’t give the celebration any context. Thankfully the ‘row’ last all of 24 hours. But the fact it became a problem highlights the way things are in England. Every action is scrutinised for even a whiff of controversy. Opinions are twisted and presented as facts, quotes are used selectively and people wonder why players hate speaking to the media. This type of media scrutiny tries to create racism where there is none and wishes to interpret chants as they see fit. The reason is clear: we live in an age where electronic media is competing with the printed media for our attention, and in order to create maximum chaos and sell newspapers, these non-stories are given credence. Hopefully next week London Calling can focus on football again.



Big guns in driving seat to advance

Group A

A double from Yaya Toure edged Manchester City closer to the Champions League knock-out stages, while Bayern Munich also won in Group A.

City coasted by under-siege Villarreal 3-0 in Spain, while Bundesliga leaders Bayern held on for a 3-2 over Napoli in Munich to all-but assure their own progression.

Roberto Mancini rested in-form duo Micah Richards and Sergio Aguero, while Stefan Savic, Samir Nasri and Balotelli all started.

In Munich, Bayern appeared to be coasting to victory against Serie A club Napoli when Mario Gomez’s superb hat-trick put them 3-0 up shortly before half-time.

But Federico Fernandez headed Ezequiel Lavezzi’s free-kick home just before the break to offer Napoli a lifeline, and the sending off of right-back Juan Camilo Zuniga for a second bookable offence failed to stop them clawing another back through Fernandez on 79 minutes.

Holger Badstuber also saw red for Bayern, but Jupp Heynckes’s men held on to ensure they are odds-on to qualify for the knock-out stages.

Group B

Inter Milan closed in on Champions League progression with a 2-1 win at home to Lille, as Trabzonspor and CSKA Moscow drew.

Argentine centre-back Walter Samuel opened the scoring for Inter, heading home from a corner 18 minutes into the match at San Siro.

Diego Milito missed a chance to make it 2-0 early in the second half, wasting the good work of Dejan Stankovic.

Argentine striker Milito then blew a three-on-one opportunity, shooting tamely into the arms of Lille goalkeeper Mickael Landreau.

He made amends by tapping home Inter’s second on 65 minutes, following a driving run by veteran Javier Zanetti.

Group C

Manchester United eased past Otelul Galati, capitalising on Benfica’s slip-up to FC Basel to go top of Champions League Group C.

An early goal from Antonio Valencia and a deflected Wayne Rooney effort gave Manchester United an hard-earned 2-1 win against the stubborn Romanian outfit, while Basel kept their hopes of progression to the knockout stages alive after stealing at point in their 1-1 draw at Benfica’s Estadio do Luz.

Group D

Real Madrid defeated Lyon 2-0 on Wednesday to book their place in the Champions League knock-out stages, while Ajax beat Dinamo Zagreb 4-0.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th and 100th goals for Real to help the club end their Stade Gerland curse with a first victory in five matches away to Lyon.

The result leaves the Spanish side on 12 points at the top of Group D and maintains their 100 per cent record in the competition, with Real yet to concede a goal in their opening four fixtures.

Eredivise side Ajax are second with seven points, three ahead of Lyon, following their comfortable victory at home to Dinamo.

Group E

Chelsea drew 1-1 with Genk, but remain in command of Group E after Bayer Leverkusen lost to Valencia.

Ramires opened the scoring for the visitors in the 25th minute at the Cristal Arena, with the Brazilian midfielder picking the ball up on the right of midfield and setting off on a surging run towards the Genk penalty area.

As he neared the 18-yard box he exchanged passes with Fernando Torres before firing low through the legs of Genk goalkeeper Laszlo Koteles from a tight angle.



Manchester City move into second spot in Group A of the Champions League with a comfortable victory 3-0 at Villarreal.

Fellow Brazilian David Luiz missed a penalty that would have made it 2-0 seven minutes before the break, after Thomas Buffel handled as Florent Malouda attempted to play the ball into the box.

The home side would later punish Luiz’s profligacy.

Kevin De Bruyne played in Fabien Camus and the defender set up Jelle Vossen, who found the back of net from close range just past the hour mark.

Group F

Arsenal are yet to confirm their place in the Champions League knock-out stages following a 0-0 draw with Marseille.

Despite only taking a point from the match at the Emirates Stadium, Arsene Wenger’s side continue to top Group F with eight points, one ahead of Marseille.

Bundesliga champions Borussia Dortmund are third, four points back from Arsenal after recording their first victory with a 1-0 win at home to Olympiakos.

Both Arsenal and their visitors from Ligue 1 had chances to win the matchday four encounter in north London.

Group G

APOEL and Zenit St Petersburg did their chances of progressing out of Champions League Group G plenty of good with valiant wins.

Cypriot clubs APOEL - favoured by many to be the whipping boys of the group when it was drawn - took the biggest scalp of matchday four by overcoming Liga Sagres and Europa League champions Porto at GSP Stadium in Nicosia.

A late Gustavo Manduca goal gave the hosts the three points, just moments after Hulk’s penalty had cancelled out Ailton’s first-half finish from the spot.

Zenit overcame Shakhtar Donetsk to win 1-0 at the Petrovsky Stadium.

Nicolas Lombaerts’ header on the stroke of half-time was enough to seal the three points in Russia, keeping Zenit second behind APOEL.

Group H

Lionel Messi netted his 200th goal for Barcelona during a 4-0 win over Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League on Tuesday.

UEFA Champions League - Match Day 4																	
Group A									Group E								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 B Múnich	4	3	1	0	8	3	5	10	1 Chelsea	4	2	2	0	9	2	7	8
2 Man City	4	2	1	1	6	4	2	7	2 Leverkusen	4	2	0	2	5	6	-1	6
3 Napoli	4	1	2	1	6	5	1	5	3 Valencia	4	1	2	1	5	4	1	5
4 Villarreal	4	0	0	4	1	9	-8	0	4 Genk	4	0	2	2	1	8	-7	2
Villarreal 0-3 Man City									Valencia 3-1 Bayer Leverkusen								
Bayern Munich 3-2 Napoli									Genk 1-1 Chelsea								
Group B									Group F								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Inter	4	3	0	1	6	4	2	9	1 Arsenal	4	2	2	0	4	2	2	8
2 CSKA	4	1	2	1	7	5	2	5	2 Marseille	4	2	1	1	4	1	3	7
3 Trabzonspor	4	1	2	1	2	4	-2	5	3 Dortmund	4	1	1	2	3	7	-4	4
4 Lille	4	0	2	2	4	6	-2	2	4 Olympia	4	1	0	3	4	5	-1	3
Trabzonspor 0-0 CSKA Moscow									Arsenal 0-0 Marseille								
Inter Milan 2-1 Lille									Borussia Dortmund 1-0 Olympiakos								
Group C									Group G								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Man Utd	4	2	2	0	8	4	4	8	1 APOEL	4	2	2	0	6	4	2	8
2 Benfica	4	2	2	0	5	2	3	8	2 Zenit	4	2	1	1	7	5	2	7
3 FC Basel	4	1	2	1	6	7	-1	5	3 Porto	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
4 Galați	4	0	0	4	1	7	-6	0	4 Shakhtar	4	0	2	2	4	6	-2	2
Man Utd 2-0 Otelul Galați									Apoel Nicosia 2-1 FC Porto								
Benfica 1-1 FC Basel									Zenit St Petersburg 1-0 Shakhtar								
Group D									Group H								
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 R Madrid	4	4	0	0	10	0	10	12	1 Barcelona	4	3	1	0	13	2	11	10
2 Ajax	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	7	2 AC Milan	4	2	2	0	7	3	4	8
3 Lyon	4	1	1	2	2	6	-4	4	3 BATE	4	0	2	2	2	9	-7	2
4 Zagreb	4	0	0	4	0	9	-9	0	4 Viktoria	4	0	1	3	1	9	-8	1
Lyon 0-2 Real Madrid									BATE Borisov 1-1 AC Milan								
Ajax 4-0 Dinamo Zagreb									Plzen 0-4 Barcelona								

Messi’s landmark strike was his first goal in a hat-trick scored at the home of the Czech champions.

The Argentine’s goals helped his side move two points clear at the top of Group H, as second-placed AC Milan could only draw 1-1 with BATE Borisov.

Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic disposed defender Marko Simic and played the ball to strike-partner Robinho, before receiving the return pass and finding the back of the net. Renan Bressan scored from the spot to make it 1-1.

Juventus and Milan enjoy vital wins



Juventus heaped more misery on Inter, claiming a 2-1 win as Milan continued their revival. Elsewhere, Napoli dropped more points, but Udinese and Lazio were victorious again to maintain their excellent starts to the season.

It was a big night on Saturday, with the Derby d'Italia taking centre stage at the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza. Inter, sitting just outside the relegation zone, started better, yet against the run of play Mirko Vucinic smashed home a saved Alessandro Matri shot to open the scoring. Maicon responded just before the half hour, his wicked drive taking a deflection off Leonardo Bonucci. Inter were then close to taking the lead, but Giampaolo Pazzini's header cannoned off the crossbar.

Claudio Marchisio restored Juve's advantage when he combined with Matri and slotted his shot past the outstretched Luca Castellazzi. Inter, who spent the week complaining about the number of penalties given against them this season, may have swayed the referee when Marchisio was then clattered by Castellazzi when through on goal.

Juve Coach Antonio Conte noted afterwards the significance of the result: "It's an important step that can help us grow. The team is taking leaps forward. This is a reward for the lads and a reason to be satisfied."

Earlier, Milan travelled to the capital and triumphed 3-2 over Roma. The visitors took the lead through Zlatan Ibrahimovic's header. Nicolas Burdisso



Juventus is enjoying life at the top of the Serie A at the moment whilst the same can't be said for Inter in 3rd last spot.

responded with a header of his own shortly after from a corner, but Alessandro Nesta nodded Milan back into the lead.

Milan sealed the match with 20 minutes remaining as Ibrahimovic headed in again. Antonio Nocerino was guilty of missing a sitter and Pablo Osvaldo reduced the deficit with a tap-in late on. For the Rossoneri, it was their fourth successive win which moves them into the European places.

Fans were shocked to hear afterwards Antonio Cassano was taken to hospital on arrival home, having difficulty speaking and moving on the plane. The Italian international will require minor surgery to correct a congenital heart problem after suffering an ischemic attack which was triggered by a restriction of blood supply to his brain. He is expected to miss up to six months of action, putting his Euro 2012 spot in jeopardy.

Napoli succumbed to defeat at Catania, 2-1. They took the lead through Edinson Cavani in the first minute, but Giovanni Marchese equalised for the hosts. Mario Santana then saw red and Napoli boss Walter Mazzarri was left fuming when Gonzalo Bergessio

headed in the winner.

Round 10 continued on Sunday, where Fiorentina tactician Sinisa Mihajlovic saved his job with a 1-0 win against Genoa. Marco Giampaolo was not as lucky as Cesena lost again, this time 2-0 away at Parma. He was sacked afterwards, with Daniele Arrigoni taking over.

Stefano Pioli continued Bologna's revival with a come-from-behind 3-1 victory against Atalanta. Udinese failed to make the most of their chances against Palermo, but a lone Antonio Di Natale goal was enough to give them the three points.

Elsewhere, Siena thumped Chievo 4-1 with Mattia Destro grabbing a brace, while Lecce and Novara shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw. Finally, Lazio joined Udinese in second as they defeated Cagliari 3-0. Miroslav Klose contributed yet again, either side of Senad Lulic and Tommaso Rocchi's 100th Lazio goal.

Looking ahead to the weekend and there is yet another huge match for Juventus. They travel to Naples, hoping to triumph there for the first time in over a decade. Napoli has been inconsistent

of late, losing in the Champions League against Bayern Munich in midweek, but they have defeated all fellow Champions League qualifiers this season and enjoy a run of four straight wins in this fixture.

Genoa will hope to take points off of another giant when they host beleaguered Inter, who are fresh from a win in the Champions League. Genoa has defeated Roma and drawn against Juve this season. The visitors also have injury concerns, with full-back Maicon out for a month. City rivals Milan, who were held in Europe, host Catania, who are just three points behind the Rossoneri but winless on the road.

Udinese will hope to capitalise on any potential Juve slip-up when they entertain Siena, while Lazio will look to do the same against Parma. Incredibly, Lazio are equal-second despite winning just once at home this season.

Palermo, a.k.a Jekyll and Hyde, is back at home against Bologna, where they have won four straight. Pioli returns to Palermo following his summer exit and has built a solid unit at Bologna. Atalanta was disappointed to lose against the Rossoblu and welcome Cagliari to town, another side to have started well. Cesena is still winless heading into their clash with Lecce, a battle between the bottom two sides who are both desperate for the three points.

Novara is without a win in six matches and has slipped into the relegation zone. Their opponent is Roma, who are playing good football without always securing the maximum result. Indeed the Romans have lost four times already, suggesting their frailties.

Chievo is another on a poor stretch, without a win since September and looking to turn it around against Fiorentina. Mihajlovic saved his job last week, but the fans are still displeased with his reign and any negative result could spell the end.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

SPAIN DOMINATES NOMINATIONS

The 2011 FIFA Ballon d'Or award nominations have been flooded by Spanish candidates and players currently applying their trade in the Spanish La Liga. Of the 23 players nominated for the FIFA Ballon d'Or 2011 best player award, 7 players are of Spanish nationality, 13 in total currently play for a Spanish football club.

Furthermore, of the 10 nominations for the FIFA World Football Coach of the year award, two nominations are Spanish, Vicente Del Bosque (Spanish National Coach) and Pep Guardiola (Barcelona FC Coach). Despite not enjoying the same level of success for his national team of Argentina as he has with his football club Barcelona FC, Lionel Messi will be the odds on favorite to take out his second consecutive FIFA Ballon d'Or award. The award is given each to the player who is considered to have performed the best in the previous season. Votes by coaches and captains of international teams, as well as journalists from around the world, determine who is the winner.

LEVANTE TASTES DEFEAT

Meanwhile in Liga, Levante have suffered their first defeat of the season, losing 2-0 to Osasuna from the Basque region. Two late first half goals from Alvaro Cejudo (40') Juan Francisco Martinez (44') were enough for Osasuna to hold onto the victory despite having goalscorer Cejudo sent off in the second half for a second bookable offense.

The loss sees Levante drop to third

place behind Real Madrid and Barcelona FC, and perhaps now La Liga will play out according to the script which sees the league as a 2-horse race.

Not that many would have had high hopes of Levante becoming the champions to begin with, the following quote by Levante Sports Director Manolo Salvador, will not get anyone's expectations too high for any level of success: "We are in the best league in the world, but we have the lowest budget, but that risk is virtue. We cannot sign 25 top players of other clubs, we are trying to remain competitive..."

In fact, at the next transfer window in January, Levante might be going even tougher. The cash-strapped club will be the target of many

poachers. First in, are Scottish Club Celtic, wanting to sign Levante's 27 year old forward Arouna Kone. Kone has responded to Celtic's interest in saying: "I am happy of this first part of the season, I am getting back to my best shape. My contract will expire next June, so it's normal that some clubs are interested. Celtic are a fantastic club, I could be interested in negotiating with them".

PRESSURE ON MANZANO

The pressure building on Atletico Madrid Coach Gregorio Manzano has eased somewhat, after a 3-1 home win against Real Zaragoza on the weekend. Atleti's first league win in over a month. Manzano's future at the Madrid club looked all but when star midfielder Jose Reyes was caught by TeleMadrid cameras saying "He can sub out his whore of a mother." when substituted by Manzano in the 3-0 away loss to Athletic Bilbao. Reyes had since publicly apologised to his coach Manzano, and the coach was quoted after the win against Zaragoza "We professionals are here to withstand all the pressure that arises. I would even say that we will come out reinforced by this mini-crisis."

Partizan and Dinamo extend their leads



Balkan Wrap

Alex Milic

Serbia
Partizan extended its lead at the top of the Serbian SuperLiga to four points following another convincing display in a 3:1 win over Smederevo and thanks to Red Star's 1:1 draw against Sloboda.

Zvonimir Vukic was once more a key player in Partizan's win and he also netted once more which now makes him the clubs top marksman this season. Serbia U/21 players Scepcovic and Markovic also found the back of the net.

Red Star slipped away to Sloboda having to thank Borja for his 88th minute strike which salvaged a point for the 'Red and Whites' who have a lot to work on following the poor performance.

"In the first half hour we dominated the game and created three fantastic chances which should have been converted into goals and already then we should have won the match. However this didn't happen and at the end we put ourselves in a tough situation where we were on the back-foot and could have lost if it wasn't for Borja's late strike. It could have been better for us but it could have also been worse. Of course we are not happy with the result and I would like to thank the Sloboda players on their performance which was based around counter attacks. We still have a lot to do but I'm only satisfied that we didn't go away from here empty handed." – Red Star Manager Robert Prosinecki.

Partizan takes on mid-table BSK in round 11 and should have no troubles in getting the three points. Red Star will look to bounce back at home to OFK Beograd in the derby match of the round.

The National Team will play two friendly



Serbian midfielder Miralem Sulejmani scored in Ajax's 4-0 drubbing of Dinamo Zagreb in the Champions League mid-week.

matches in Central America. Under the leadership of Radovan Curic Serbia will take on Honduras and Mexico. It will be a great chance to see fresh blood in the Serbia squad following the failure to qualify for the Euro 2012 Championships.

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb extended its lead at the top of the Croatian League following a 2:1 win over Sibenik and Hajduk's failure to overcome Karlovac a match they drew 1:1.

Goals to Dinamo's foreigners Sammir and Begiraj was enough to give the defending champions the points at home against a resilient Sibenik side. Hajduk took the early lead away to Kalrovac through Ahmad Sharbini and had the initiative throughout the first half but failed to convert their chances wish went on to punish them as second from bottom Karlovac scored through Stambolija and secured a valuable point.

Dinamo Zagreb suffered a trashing in the Champions League in Amsterdam against Ajax. 4:0 was the end result but it could have been worse for Juric and his men. Two goals in each half gave Ajax back to back wins over its rival and signalled the end to Dinamo's European adventure.

Van Der Wiel, Serbian midfielder Miralem Sulejmani in the first half and De Jong and Lodiero scored in the second. Dinamo has yet to score a goal in four Champions League matches and will have nothing but pride to play for in the upcoming two which is against much more formidable opposition in Lyon and Real Madrid. "I have to admit Ajax played modern football something only 4-5 teams in Europe play and when you play this well then you will always create 1 on 1 chances. We failed to get into the game and that was obvious when you verse a European giant like Ajax and the way they played tonight it was going to be impossible for a side like Dinamo which is not used to this level of football. We will now look towards the Croatian League and winning a seventh consecutive title, this has been a big learning curve for us and I hope the fans turn out in numbers in our last home game against Lyon. They should be proud a Croatian team is playing amongst the best in Europe." Dinamo Manager Kruno Juric said.

"There is nothing to say but Ajax totally destroyed us tonight, they played fast football and pressed us which we couldn't handle. I think I've only lost and been outplayed like this once in my life before and

that was against England when we lost 5:1." Former Melbourne Knights defender Joe Simunic said.

In Round 14 of the Croatian League Hajduk welcomes Varazdin while Dinamo takes on city rival Zagreb in the derby match of the round.

Greece

Atromitos and Panathinaikos share top spot in the Greek top flight with both sides getting the wins in huge matches. Anastasakos scored both goals in Atromitos 2:1 win against Panionios while Panathinaikos thrashed PAOK in Salonika 3:1.

Olympiacos gave up a two goal lead to draw with OFI Crete in Athens. AEK Athens move up to fourth on the standings following a fine display over ARIS a match they went out to win rather convincingly 3:0.

First takes on last as Atromitos welcomes Levadiakos in round 8. The derby match of the round is between old rivals Panathinaikos and AEK Athens scheduled for the 6th of November. Olympiacos will be hoping to bounce back as they visit ARIS.

The Greek Champions suffered a 1:0 defeat in The UEFA Champions League away to Borussia Dortmund.

Turkey

Fenerbahce remains four points clear at the top of the Turkish League as all the top teams won. Fener overcame Karabukspor 1:0 while Troisi's Kayserispor suffered a 2:0 loss to second place Galatasaray.

Besiktas was too good for Sivasspor winning 3:1, Istanbul BB got the points away to Ankaragucu and Trabzonspor won away to Gaziantepspor with a last minute strike by Halil Altintop. Trabzonspor however drew in the Champions League 0:0 against CSKA and now have it all to do when they welcome Inter and take on Lille in France needing at least one win from the two matches. Istanbul BB welcomes Bursaspor in the match of Round 10. Troisi's Kayserispor take on Trabzonspor.

Young Socceroos start AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers

The Qantas Young Socceroos opened their account at the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers at the MBPJ Stadium in Kuala Lumpur with a hard fought 1-0 win over a plucky Singapore team.

Playing his first game for Australia, Reece Caira headed home a cross from Adam Taggart in the 50th minute which proved to be the only goal of the game. The Qantas Young Socceroos dominated the game and made numerous chances which were either wasted or well defended by the Singapore goalkeeper, Bin Ghani, who was easily their player of the game.

The game began in very hot and humid conditions after the kickoff time was brought forward by the AFC to avoid the thunderstorms and torrential rain which has been a feature of the Kuala Lumpur weather conditions for the last week.

In the goal-less first half the Qantas Young Socceroos, with 90% possession, consistently pressured the Singapore goal; Caira, Jamie Maclaren and striker Adam Taggart all had chances to put Australia ahead but Ghani, the woodwork and profligate finishing meant that Australia went to the half-time break without a goal to show for their dominance.

It was not until the 50th minute that the Qantas Young Socceroos took their deserved lead when Taggart sent over a sweet cross from the right wing and Caira was at the back post to firmly plant the ball in the back of the net.

Despite continued pressure on Singapore a second goal proved elusive; Terry Antonis, Ryan Edwards and Taggart all had good opportunities well saved or just missing the target. On one occasion Antonis delicately chipped the goal keeper but the ball clipped the cross bar. In the 78th minute Australia had a penalty claim waved away by the Thai referee when Taggart was brought down in the box.

The Qantas Young Socceroos nearly scored a second when Taggart took a clever free kick to Edwards whose shot was cleared off the line. In the 80th minute, Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen replaced the hard-

working midfielder, Jake Barker-Daish, with Paulo Retre, and Australia played out the remaining minutes still exerting pressure on the tiring Singaporeans.

An indication of their superiority was that Australia had 16 corners to none for Singapore, and the Qantas Young Socceroos goalkeeper, Nick Munro, had only one shot to save.

Jan Versleijen was content with his team's performance, stating at the post-match press conference that this new Qantas Young Socceroos team had only been together for a short time and played their opening game in stifling hot and humid conditions.

In the other Group G match played today, Indonesia defeated Macau 3-0. In the first round on Monday, China PR and Indonesia played out a scoreless draw, as did Macau and Singapore.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will next face Macau on Friday 4 November (kick-off 11:00am local, 2:00pm AEST).

During the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers, each group will play one round league and the top two teams from each group will progress to the AFC U-19 Championship 2012.

The AFC U-19 Championship 2012 will serve as the qualifying event for the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup which will be held in the Turkey.

Match Details:

Young Socceroos 1 (Reece Caira 50') Singapore 0
MBPJ Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Wednesday 2 November 2011
Crowd: 400

Qantas Young Socceroos Line Up:
12.Nicholas Munro (Gk), 2.Josh Brilante, 3. Connor Chapman, 4.Curtis Good (C), 6.Terry Antonis, 7.Jamie Maclaren, 8.Jake Barker-Daish (38.Paulo Retre, 80'), 9.Adam Taggart, 19.Reece Caira, 22.Ryan Edwards 45.Daniel Petkovski

Yellow Cards: Jamie MACLAREN 37'
Red Cards: Nil



ENGLAND EPL



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Manchester City	10	9	1	0	36	8	+28	28
2 Manchester United	10	7	2	1	27	12	+15	23
3 Newcastle United	10	6	4	0	15	7	+8	22
4 Chelsea	10	6	1	3	23	15	+8	19
5 Tottenham Hotspur	9	6	1	2	18	14	+4	19
6 Liverpool	10	5	3	2	14	10	+4	18
7 Arsenal	10	5	1	4	20	21	-1	16
8 Norwich City	10	3	4	3	14	15	-1	13
9 Aston Villa	10	2	6	2	13	13	+0	12
10 Swansea City	10	3	3	4	12	15	-3	12
11 Stoke City	10	3	3	4	8	14	-6	12
12 Queens Park Ra...	10	3	3	4	8	17	-9	12
13 West Bromwich ...	10	3	2	5	9	13	-4	11
14 Sunderland	10	2	4	4	14	12	+2	10
15 Fulham	10	2	4	4	13	12	+1	10
16 Everton	9	3	1	5	10	13	-3	10
17 Wolverhampton ...	10	2	2	6	9	17	-8	8
18 Blackburn Rovers	10	1	3	6	13	23	-10	6
19 Bolton Wanderers	10	2	0	8	13	27	-14	6
20 Wigan Athletic	10	1	2	7	6	17	-11	5

GERMANY Bundesliga



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bayern Munchen	11	8	1	2	30	3	+27	25
2 Schalke 04	11	7	0	4	22	16	+6	21
3 Borussia Dortmund	11	6	2	3	21	8	+13	20
4 Werder Bremen	11	6	2	3	20	14	+6	20
5 Borussia M'gl'a...	11	6	2	3	13	8	+5	20
6 Stuttgart	11	5	3	3	17	9	+8	18
7 Hannover 96	11	5	3	3	14	15	-1	18
8 Bayer Leverkusen	11	5	2	4	13	14	-1	17
9 Hoffenheim	11	5	1	5	14	12	+2	16
10 Hertha BSC	11	4	4	3	15	15	+0	16
11 Koln	11	5	1	5	18	23	-5	16
12 Wolfsburg	11	4	1	6	14	20	-6	13
13 Kaiserslautern	11	3	3	5	9	14	-5	12
14 Nurnberg	11	3	3	5	12	18	-6	12
15 Mainz 05	11	2	3	6	13	22	-9	9
16 Hamburger SV	11	2	3	6	13	23	-10	9
17 Augsburg	11	1	5	5	8	20	-12	8
18 Freiburg	11	2	1	8	14	26	-12	7

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Southampton	15	10	3	2	33	15	+18	33
2 West Ham United	15	8	4	3	26	13	+13	28
3 Middlesbrough	15	7	6	2	19	12	+7	27
4 Crystal Palace	15	7	4	4	18	12	+6	25
5 Cardiff City	15	6	6	3	27	20	+7	24
6 Hull City	14	7	3	4	14	13	+1	24
7 Derby County	15	7	3	5	20	20	+0	24
8 Blackpool	15	6	4	5	25	19	+6	22
9 Leicester City	15	6	4	5	20	18	+2	22
10 Leeds United	15	6	4	5	25	25	+0	22
11 Birmingham City	12	6	3	3	18	13	+5	21
12 Brighton & Hov...	15	5	5	5	17	17	+0	20
13 Ipswich Town	14	6	2	6	19	24	-5	20
14 Peterborough U...	15	6	1	8	29	27	+2	19
15 Millwall	15	4	6	5	19	17	+2	18
16 Reading	15	4	6	5	15	15	+0	18
17 Burnley	14	5	3	6	19	20	-1	18
18 Barnsley	15	4	6	5	17	19	-2	18
19 Nottingham Forest	15	5	2	8	15	24	-9	17
20 Portsmouth	15	4	4	7	16	18	-2	16
21 Watford	15	4	4	7	15	25	-10	16
22 Coventry City	15	2	6	7	11	20	-9	12
23 Bristol City	15	2	4	9	11	26	-15	10
24 Doncaster Rovers	15	2	3	10	10	26	-16	9

Greece Super League



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Panathinaikos	6	5	1	0	16	5	+11	16
2 Atromitos	8	4	4	0	10	6	+4	16
3 Olympiakos Piraeus	6	4	2	0	13	7	+6	14
4 AEK Athens	7	4	1	2	11	10	+1	13
5 PAOK	8	3	2	3	10	9	+1	11
6 Panaitolikos	6	3	1	2	9	7	+2	10
7 OFI	6	2	3	1	8	7	+1	9
8 PAS Giannina	7	2	3	2	8	8	+0	9
9 Panionios	8	2	2	4	8	10	-2	8
10 Ergotelis	8	2	2	4	9	13	-4	8
11 Xanthi	8	1	2	5	10	14	-4	5
12 Aris	6	0	4	2	2	6	-4	4
13 Asteras Tripolis	6	0	3	3	2	7	-5	3
14 Kerkyra	6	0	2	4	5	12	-7	2
15 Doxa Dramas	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0
16 Levadiakos	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0

SPAIN La Liga



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Madrid	10	8	1	1	32	6	+26	25
2 Barcelona	10	7	3	0	32	4	+28	24
3 Levante	10	7	2	1	17	7	+10	23
4 Valencia	10	6	3	1	15	9	+6	21
5 Sevilla	10	4	5	1	11	8	+3	17
6 Málaga	10	5	1	4	12	14	-2	16
7 Espanyol	10	5	0	5	9	13	-4	15
8 Osasuna	10	3	5	2	13	17	-4	14
9 Athletic Club	10	3	4	3	15	12	+3	13
10 Atlético Madrid	10	3	4	3	12	11	+1	13
11 Rayo Vallecano	10	3	3	4	10	13	-3	12
12 Real Betis	10	4	0	6	10	15	-5	12
13 Villarreal	10	2	4	4	9	17	-8	10
14 Mallorca	10	2	3	5	8	16	-8	9
15 Real Zaragoza	10	2	3	5	10	20	-10	9
16 Real Sociedad	10	2	2	6	9	14	-5	8
17 Sporting Gijón	10	2	2	6	8	14	-6	8
18 Racing Santander	10	1	5	4	7	15	-8	8
19 Granada	10	2	2	6	4	12	-8	8
20 Getafe	10	1	4	5	9	15	-6	7

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 AZ	11	9	1	1	25	8	+17	28
2 PSV	11	6	4	1	29	13	+16	22
3 Twente	11	6	4	1	28	12	+16	22
4 Vitesse	11	6	3	2	18	11	+7	21
5 Ajax	11	5	5	1	28	14	+14	20
6 Feyenoord	11	5	3	3	21	16	+5	18
7 Heerenveen	11	4	5	2	23	18	+5	17
8 Groningen	11	5	2	4	21	17	+4	17
9 Heracles	11	4	4	3	17	14	+3	16
10 NAC Breda	11	4	1	6	17	19	-2	13
11 ADO Den Haag	11	4	1	6	14	21	-7	13
12 RKC Waalwijk	11	4	1	6	11	18	-7	13
13 Utrecht	11	3	3	5	16	18	-2	12
14 Roda JC	11	4	0	7	14	31	-17	12
15 NEC	11	3	1	7	10	17	-7	10
16 De Graafschap	11	2	3	6	11	22	-11	9
17 VVV	11	1	3	7	12	29	-17	6
18 Excelsior	11	1	2	8	7	24	-17	5

LEAGUE ONE



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Charlton Athletic	16	11	4	1	34	12	+22	37
2 Huddersfield Town	16	9	7	0	34	13	+21	34
3 Sheffield Wedn...	16	10	2	4	31	23	+8	32
4 Sheffield United	16	8	5	3	30	20	+10	29
5 Milton Keynes Dons	16	7	6	3	27	16	+11	27
6 Notts County	16	8	3	5	29	22	+7	27
7 Tranmere Rovers	16	7	4	5	19	16	+3	25
8 Brentford	16	7	4	5	24	18	+6	25
9 Carlisle United	16	7	4	5	20	27	-3	25
10 Stevenage	16	6	5	5	22	17	+5	23
11 Preston North End	15	7	2	6	29	29	+0	23
12 Colchester United	16	5	7	4	25	24	+1	22
13 Hartlepool United	15	6	4	5	21	23	-2	22
14 Oldham Athletic	16	4	4	6	22	25	-3	22
15 Scunthorpe United	16	3	9	4	23	23	+0	18
16 Bury	16	5	3	8	18	25	-7	18
17 Leyton Orient	16	4	5	7	18	27	-9	17
18 AFC Bournemouth	16	4	4	8	19	26	-7	16
19 Exeter City	16	4	3	9	15	28	-13	15
20 Walsall	16	3	5	8	15	20	-5	14
21 Rochdale	16	3	5	8	19	30	-11	14
22 Chesterfield	16	3	3	10	19	29	-10	12
23 Wycombe Wanderers	16	3	3	10	16	26	-10	12
24 Yeovil Town	16	2	5	9	16	26	-10	11

France Ligue 1



	Last5games							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 PSG	12	9	2	1	25	10	+15	29
2 Montpellier	12	8	2	2	27	15	+12	26
3 Lille	12	6	5	1	21	12	+9	23
4 Olympique Lyon	12	7	2	3	20	13	+7	23
5 Toulouse	12	6	4	2	13	10	+3	22
6 Stade Rennes	12	6	3	3	21	15	+6	21
7 Lorient	12	4	5	3	13	12	+1	17
8 Saint-Etienne	12	4	4	4	11	15	-4	16
9 Olympique Mars	12	3	6	3	15	14	+1	15
10 Caen	12	4	3	5	17	19	-2	15
11 Sochaux	12	3	5	4	18	24	-6	14
12 Brest	12	1	9	2	12	12	+0	12
13 Auxerre	12	2	6	4	17	18	-1	12
14 Evian TG	12	2	6	4	14	17	-3	12
15 Bordeaux	12	2	6	4	14	18	-4	12
16 Nice	12	2	5	5	12	12	+0	11
17 Dijon	12	3	2	7	13	25	-12	11
18 Valenciennes	12	2	4	6	12	13	-1	10
19 Nancy	12	1	5	6	8	15	-7	8
20 Ajaccio	12	1	4	7	10	24	-14	7

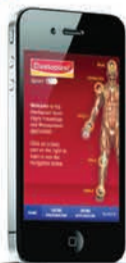
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